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Economy & Efficiency Commission

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, January 5, 2006
ROOM 525, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Editorial Note: Agenda sections may be taken out of order at the discretion of the chair. Any reordering of sections is reflected in the presentation of these minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER OF COMMISSION MEETING

With the presence of a quorum of commissioners, Chairman Philibosian called the Commission meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chairman Philibosian asked for a motion to approve absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Fred Balderrama
Joanne Baltierrez
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Robert Cole
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Chun Lee
Royal F.Oakes
Roman Padilla
Charles Parks
William J. Petak
Robert H. Philibosian
Julia Sylva
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Jonathan Fuhrman

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

Hope J. Boonschaft

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the November 3, 2005 Commission meeting, and/or the December 1, 2005 Commission meeting. After Commissioner Lee pointed out a spelling error in the November minutes, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the November 3 Commission meeting be approved as corrected, and the minutes of the December 1, 2005 Commission meeting be approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF PRESENTATION

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation of the November 3, 2005 Commission meeting. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The presentation of the November 3, 2005 Commission meeting be approved.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Ikejiri introduced Ms. Joan Quintana, a member of the Senior Citizens' Commission of the City of Gardena. Commissioner Sylva introduced Ms. Debbie Cabreira Johnson, Section Manager of the Los Angeles County Office of Small Business, and Mr. Javier Del Valle, a member of the Los Angeles County Small Business Commission. Mr. Troy Anderson of the Los Angeles Daily News introduced himself.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian congratulated Commissioners Ikejiri, Petak, Sylva, and Tortorice on their reappointments to the Commission, and noted that Commissioner Boonschaft has been recommended for reappointment at the January 10, 2006 Board of Supervisors meeting. The Chairman noted the new appointment by Supervisor Antonovich of Mr. Solon C. Soteras to the Commission, pending approval by the Board.

The Chairman commented on receipt of the Los Angeles County Annual Report, and stated that copies could be obtained from Mr. Staniforth.

The Chairman concluded his report by wishing all a Happy New Year.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth noted that the Commission meetings will be held in Room 525 for the remainder of the year. He stated that Commission meeting dates have been circulated to all Commissioners, and are available on the Commission website. The meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Oakes asked if there were any other meeting rooms available, particularly if a large presentation or large guest attendance was required. Chairman Philibosian explained the reasons for the room change, and stated that a larger room would be obtained if necessary for a particular meeting.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

Local Government Services Commission

No liaison was present to make a presentation.

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Anderson stated that Commissioner Jean Kennedy is now Chair of the Commission, and that new committee assignments will be issued. Chairman Philibosian recalled Chair Kennedy's service on the Economy and Efficiency Commission after her service as foreperson of the County Grand Jury.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS

Grand Jury Task Force

Commissioner Parks stated Mr. Staniforth had been asked to distribute copies of the Grand Jury report on domestic violence to the task force members, and that he would be contacting them to get their input in this issue.

Organization and Accountability Task Force

Commissioner Oakes discussed the task force review of shared services in the County. He stated that Mr. Staniforth had met with the Auditor/Controller department, which has made a report on this issue and is working on implementation of recommendations regarding shared services in 19 departments. Commissioner Oakes stated that the task force would monitor the department's progress, and assess possible contributions of the task force in a few months.

Commissioner Oakes then discussed the progress of the task force review of the Workers' Compensation system, noting that 60% of the recommendations had been implemented, 20% were potentially going to be implemented, and that the other 20% had no plans to be implemented. The Commissioner stated the task force would follow up on implementation and consider whether it disagrees with the decision to cast aside those recommendations that were not implemented.

Economic Development Task Force

Commissioner Sylva reported that the task force met earlier in the day, and had circulated copies of the agenda from the recent Contracting Connections Workshop in the Second District. She noted that the next workshop for the First District is in the planning stages. Key issues will include vendor relationships and business contracts with the County, access to capital, work force development, health care, and the impact of small business on economic development and international trade.

Ms. Debbie Cabreira Johnson, Section Manager of the Los Angeles County Office of Small Business, elaborated on the history and growth of the workshops, and explained the recent expansion of topics beyond vendor and business contracts with the County, as well as the acquisition of a Defense Department grant to aid small businesses in procuring federal contracts.

Commissioner Sylva then announced plans for a task force meeting focusing on asset management as a topic for the next workshop.

Commissioner Parks asked whether the Defense Department grant included provisions for contracting needed personnel as well as equipment, and whether there was an incubator program between the government and academia. Ms. Cabreira Johnson replied that the grant was small and focused on equipment procurement. She acknowledged that these concerns have been raised by others and cited the difficulty that the government's defense contract management is having even staffing itself.

Video Arraignment Task Force

Commissioner Anderson stated that a meeting with Supervising Judge Wesley was needed regarding estimated costs of the program, and Chairman Philibosian agreed, but pointed out that judicial assignments may have changed. The Chairman stated he would contact Judge Wesley and arrange a meeting with him and his successor, if any.

Succession Planning Task Force

Commissioner Petak stated the task force is awaiting responses to its report from the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Administrative Office. He reported that the request for the report came from Supervisor Knabe's Office and stated that he would contact the Supervisor's staff for status on the report.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Proposal to Investigate the Creation of a Retired Officers Reserve Corps

Commissioner Parks explained that there are large numbers of experienced, retired officers who could be utilized in various administrative capacities and agencies in the event of a major disaster or emergency. He commented further that Supervisor Antonovich had expressed interest in the idea. He also cited the low probable cost since most retired personnel already receive pensions or other income. Commissioner Cole proposed a motion to support investigation of the proposal, and Commissioner Sylva seconded the motion. Chairman Philibosian asked to defer action pending the presentation of Supervisor Antonovich.

X. PRESENTATION

Chairman Philibosian introduced Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and welcomed him to the meeting.

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
Mayor of the County of Los Angeles and Chair of the Board of Supervisors
Topic: The Future of Los Angeles County

Supervisor Antonovich discussed the role the Economy and Efficiency Commission in helping County government improve the productivity and quality of service to its citizens. The Supervisor stressed the need for programs to increase productivity in the County's work force and the need for improvement in social programs in areas such as adoptive foster care. He emphasized the need for creativity and new approaches to old problems such as recruiting public safety personnel, and solving nagging educational issues in the LAUSD system. In addition, as part of his presentation he responded to questions from the commissioners on a variety of topics including early prisoner release and budget problems in the Sheriff's Office, the recent special election issues, and the problems in Health Services.

XI. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

Proposal to Investigate the Creation of a Retired Officers Reserve Corps

Discussion on this issue resumed with Chairman Philibosian asking for clarification of the motion, noting concerns expressed by Assistant Sheriff Tanaka regarding liability insurance, risk management, and supervision. The Chairman suggested that the Organization and Accountability Task Force should review some of these issues before sending a letter to the Sheriff in support of the proposal. Commissioner Parks then stressed that the Reserve Corp would not be supplementing law enforcement on the front lines but rather in administrative capacities and that liability would be minimal.

Commissioner Hill asked Commissioner Parks to clarify the difference between a "community officer" and regular law enforcement and how to identify them. Commissioner Parks explained that community officers were not full-fledged law enforcement officers and had limited roles and authority. He pointed out that while the Reserve Corps would consist of experienced, fully trained former officers, they would be used only to supplement regular law enforcement in an administrative capacity.

Commissioner Petak asked about the differences between retired and reserve police officers. Chairman Philibosian pointed out that reserve officers operate with all the authority and liability of a regular police officer, while the proposed Reserve Corps would not be active in the field.

Commissioner Cole then re-offered his motion to support an investigation of Commissioner Parks' proposal. It was Seconded, and Adopted: The Commission members support an investigation of the proposal to create a Retired Officers Reserve Corps. Chairman Philibosian then assigned the investigation to the Organization and Accountability Task Force.

Election of Commission Chair for 2006

Commissioner Padilla reported on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. The Committee consisted of Commissioners Barcelona, Boonshaft, Lee, Padilla, Parks, and Petak. The Committee nominated both Commissioners Hill and Sylva as candidates for Chair. The Commissioners then debated the balloting method and concluding that a secret ballot would violate the Brown Act. Commissioner Cole inquired as to the responsibilities and duties of the Chair, to which Chairman Philibosian then replied.

The Chairman asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, the Commissioners agreed to hear the nominees speak and answer questions, following a brief break.

Commissioner Sylva and Commissioner Hill each addressed the Commission, citing their qualifications, experience, and goals as Chair of the Commission. Questions were asked of both candidates regarding proper procedure during meetings and each candidate's length of service.

Commissioner Sylva requested a written ballot, and the Commissioners agreed. A vote was taken and the results were in favor of Commissioner Hill by a vote of 9 to 5.

Commissioner Sylva congratulated Chair-elect Hill. Chairman Philibosian congratulated both candidates and reflected on his tenure, and stated his intention to remain on the Commission. The Chairman also commended Commissioner Lee for his long period of service to the Commission.

Commissioner Oakes, on behalf of all the commissioners, thanked Chairman Philibosian for his leadership over the past six years. Chair-elect Hill also thanked the Chairman and stated her intention to make a motion at the next meeting to bestow the title of "Chairman Emeritus" on Chairman Philibosian. The Chair-elect also thanked the commissioners for their support.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. No members of the public commented.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor, Chairman Philibosian adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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