

[Click Here To Close This Window](#)

---

## **Economy & Efficiency Commission**

# **Meeting Minutes**

---

### **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**

THURSDAY, June 1, 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 AS A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Lacking a quorum of commissioners, Chair Hill called the meeting to order as a Committee of the Whole at 10:18 a.m.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hill reported that the Commission Office remodeling has been completed and operations will normalize. Chair Hill also commented that the Board of Supervisors has appropriated \$100 million to address the problems of homelessness. She stated that the Commission has an interest in those families and children impacted by homelessness. As a result there is a panel presentation today on the homeless and family violence issue and a second panel on this topic scheduled in July. The August Commission meeting will be dark. Mr. David Janssen, the County Chief Administrative Officer, has been requested to attend the September Commission meeting to discuss recent Board initiatives, and explain how his Office will respond to these initiatives.

Commissioner Petak noted that the issue he and Commissioner Tortorice were asked to report was emergency preparedness and County business continuity in the event of a disaster. Commissioner Petak suggested that the Commission reconsider its mission statement to more appropriately identify issues to be considered.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Staniforth introduced his new Administrative Assistant, Austin Patteson. Mr. Patteson introduced himself to the Commission.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES**

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

##### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Clayton Anderson

Fred Balderrama  
Joanne Baltierrez  
Isaac Diaz Barcelona  
Jaclyn Tilley Hill  
Charles Parks  
William J. Petak  
Robert H. Philibosian  
Tony Tortorice

#### **COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED**

Jonathan Fuhrman  
Ronald K. Ikejiri  
Chun Lee  
Royal F.Oakes  
Roman Padilla  
Solon C.Soteras  
Julia Sylva

#### **COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE**

Hope J. Boonshaft  
Robert Cole

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT (Continued)**

Chair Hill presented Chairman Emeritus Philibosian with the award of an eagle recognizing his leadership during his six years as chairman of the Commission, together with the gavel he used as chairman.

#### **X. PRESENTATION**

Chair Hill introduced the individuals as they made their presentation:

A Panel Discussion including:  
Lieutenant Ernie Booker, Community Transition Unit (CTU), Sheriff's Department  
Ms. Paula Cohen, Esq., Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles  
Dr. Marvin Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health  
Topic: The Impact of Domestic Violence on the Homelessness of Children and Families

The panel was brought together to discuss the problems and issues that are raised when individuals, as a result of domestic violence, face homelessness. During the course of the discussion examples were given of situations that are being faced by this population and programs and approaches directed toward solving the problem were presented by each of the presenters.

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS**

##### **Business Continuity Planning**

Commissioner Petak distributed copies of the Los Angeles County Business Continuity Planning Handbook. In addition, Commissioner Petak recommended that a county representative involved in business continuity planning should make a presentation on the county's business continuity planning. Chair Hill mentioned that some of the commissioners attended the Homeland Security Conference, where County representatives gave a detailed thorough presentation on how the County is preparing for disasters.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION ON THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Petak raised the question of what the Commission should be addressing. He feels that it should be considering operational issues in terms of economy and efficiency within the County. The only relevance of a discussion of issues beyond our scope is in how it relates to the operation of a particular department.

Chair Hill stated that her goal when she became chair was to raise the bar to increase the relevance of the Commission within the County. Commissioner Petak expressed concern over the perception that the Commission was considered irrelevant. Chair Hill replied that in her discussions with the CAO, he had suggested that the Commission consider opportunities to identify possibilities within departments to improve economies and efficiencies. As these issues are raised, Chair Hill feels that it is important to investigate opportunities on what exists and how the Commission could

look at the operations of these organizations. Commissioner Baltierrez suggested that it would be valuable for the Commission to consider how much programs, such as the current homelessness initiatives, are costing and how they will continue to be funded.

Chair Hill stated that departments have been asked how the Commission could assist them. In response to that question she reported that the Commission was not on the department's "radar". Commissioner Petak asked if the Commission was supposed to be on their "radar". Chair Hill replied that it would be helpful if the Commission wishes to raise its awareness and thus, be better able to accomplish its mission and goals. In reply to the Chair's comments, Commissioner Petak recommended that the Commission meet for an open discussion of the mission and charter of the Economy and Efficiency Commission and how best to accomplish this mission. He suggested that the Commission serves at the pleasure of the Board, and not the department heads. Chair Hill asked how the Commission could raise awareness with the Board. She then commented on the lack of attendance of some commissioners. Commissioner Petak replied that the attendance of these commissioners, or lack thereof, was a matter for their appointing authority. Chair Hill stated that she had discussed vacancies with two supervisors and had recommend individuals for assignment to the Commission. Chair Hill noted that it takes a significant amount of time to put panels together and that the presenters accept our invitation because they personally know her. Even with that, it is obviously a challenge to get a quorum. Commissioner Petak restated his position that the Commission should have a discussion on the mission of the Commission.

Commissioner Baltierrez raised the question of what the Commission would be doing if there were fewer presentations and if the Board has not been making assignments. Commissioner Petak agreed that this was an important question. Presentations are useful when the topics and speakers focus on the operation of County government, how the County is meeting its obligations, and the efficiencies and effectiveness of a program or department within the County. Commissioner Baltierrez suggested that presentations may well identify areas in which the Commission could contribute its expertise. Commissioner Petak considered the possibility for working with the Supervisor's staffs. He also felt that the effectiveness of the Commission is directly related to the fact that commissioners don't attend the meetings. Commissioner Baltierrez felt that commissioners don't attend because they don't feel that there is a point in attending. She expressed concern on her assignments within the existing task force structure. Commissioner Petak again restated his suggestion that the Commission have an in-depth discussion on what the Commission is here for, what it is doing, what kind of projects it should be involved in and what capabilities exist within the Commission.

Commissioner Barcelona commented that its inability to reach a quorum appears to be a recent problem. Chair Hill replied that she has personally attempted to get commissioners to attend to no avail. She stated that she is open to any suggestions on how to improve commissioner attendance. Commissioner Petak continued in his suggestion to have a special meeting where the Commission would get into these kinds of issues collectively. Chair Hill expressed her concern over the seriousness of this issue for the Commission and raised the question as to the purpose of this Commission. She commented that she is spending a significant amount of time talking to people about the Commission, is looking for opportunities and is using her access to the Board to raise issues.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth  
Executive Director

[Go to June 1, 2006 Agenda](#)

[Return to July 6, 2006 Agenda](#)



WEB [eec.co.la.ca.us](http://eec.co.la.ca.us)