
Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, February 7, 2002
ROOM 830, KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

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 10:15 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Commissioner Philibosian asked for a motion to approve absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Fred Balderrama
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Hope J. Boonshaft
David W. Farrar
Jonathan Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Royal F. Oakes
Roman Padilla
Robert H. Philibosian
Clinton Simmons
Julia Sylva
G. Thomas Thompson

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Joanne Baltierrez
Annie E. Cho
John Crowley
Chun Lee
Tony Lucente

William J. Petak
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

None

It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The Commission members requesting an excuse, be excused.

III. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2002 MINUTES

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the January 10, 2002 Commission meeting be approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 7, 2002 PRESENTATION

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation. Hearing none the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The presentation of the January 10, 2002 Commission meeting be approved.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Farrar introduced his assistant, Christy Lin, who was present again observing government in action; she has applied for a Coro Foundation Fellowship based on her experience here.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian stated that last Tuesday he reported to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Hearing Body on Health Department Governance. The Executive Director and Commissioner Jaclyn Tilley Hill were also present. Supervisor Yaroslavsky asked the Ad Hoc Hearing Body to review various models of governance, hold a public hearing and report back to the Board of Supervisors as to whether or not there should be any changes. The Ad Hoc Body concluded that the problem was fiscal and operational, and could not be solved by changing the governance especially to a Health Authority, which required State Legislation and would be controlled by people outside Los Angeles County. The Ad Hoc Body unanimously advised:

1. that the Board of Supervisors constitute a Fiscal Advisory Committee with the objective of enhancing revenues within the Department of Health Services (DHS);
2. that the Board of Supervisors immediately implement the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force was established a year ago to improve DHS operations, particularly in the areas of management, purchasing and communications;
3. that the Board of Supervisors reopen the issue of a Health Authority if the situation has not improved within a year.

The Board accepted the report with one dissenting vote. Chairman Philibosian was asked by the Board whether the Ad Hoc Hearing Body would continue. He answered that the Body had completed their process, and further work would necessitate hiring consultants.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has a new Director, Dr. Thomas Garthwaite, an internist and endocrinologist, who comes from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is the first physician to be hired as administer of DHS. Dr. Garthwaite has had extensive experience running a large organization.

Commissioner Farrar commented that five years ago when the E & E Commission had approached this issue, an associate of his had recently completed an appointment as one of the Kaiser Permanente Task Force Chairs that had spent three years reengineering their system. This study, which was conducted by the McKinsey Group, cost approximately, \$11M. Most of the Group's recommendations had been implemented and had restored Kaiser to a profit making position. Los Angeles County had rebuffed a suggestion that the McKinsey Group review DHS; nevertheless, the McKinsey Group is still available for consultation. Commissioner Farrar said that the County could use much of what Kaiser learned in terms of Best Practices, and would only look at what were not Best Practices. Chairman Philibosian suggested that the McKinsey Group speak to the new Director, Dr. Garthwaite.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth stated that most of the commissioners have returned their old ID cards, except Commissioners Baltierrez and Tortorice who were absent, today.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

Local Government Services Commission

Commissioner Andes reported that the Commission met Tuesday, February 5, 2002 covering the issue of Control of Solid Waste Management.

Continued operations of the Clemente Hills Landfill, and transition to waste by rail were discussed. The total generation of waste is 65,000 tons per day; the disposal is 36,000 tons per day. Chairman Philibosian commented that it was less controversial to put the waste in Mesquite on "hard pan" than in the middle of the City of Los Angeles. Chairman Philibosian had worked on the permitting of the Mesquite Gold Mine, (the predecessor of the Mesquite Landfill) in the mid 1980's to the early 1990's, had conceived the idea to use the area for a waste landfill, and was enthused that the location was still viable.

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Anderson stated that a special opportunity grant program for each department is offered by the Quality and Productivity Commission, this grant stipulates "One Department, One Project" valued up to \$2M to increase productivity and decrease costs. A committee would be reviewing the proposals with the deadline for approval of April 5, 2002. Commissioner Farrar asked where one could receive a copy of the notice of the grant program. Commissioner Anderson replied that he would get a copy for the Commission, which shows the application and selection criteria. Chairman Philibosian stated that Mr. Staniforth would send a copy to the commissioners.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS

Emancipation Services Task Force

Commissioner Thompson reported that the review had been diligently worked on within the Task Force. Dr. Sharon Watson has provided the Appendix on Transitional Housing. The Task Force members would like the E & E Commission to give tentative approval to allow the Executive Director to make minor editorial changes. The Task Force is satisfied with the document.

Commissioner Fuhrman stated that he was pleased with the final Draft Review and thought that it was a significant contribution to the County's ongoing discussion and debate on how to improve emancipation services. It is a short report, which facilitates easy reading and complements the CAO's direction. Commissioner Padilla echoed Commissioner Fuhrman's comments and stated that it was a difficult process. He felt that Los Angeles County changed much of the Emancipation Services operations during the study before the review was published. He felt that Dr. Watson's report and subsequent efforts were initiated because of the E & E Commission's work.

Commissioner Thompson expressed his appreciation to Chairman Philibosian for his participation with the Task Force. Chairman Philibosian thanked and complimented the members of the Emancipation Services Task Force and the Executive Director, Mr. Staniforth, for persisting with the difficult issues. The entire Commission was very concerned with the status of the foster children who become emancipated and need a good start as adults, rather than going "on welfare" or into the jail system. The Commission and Task Force are committed to monitoring what changes will occur. Commissioner Thompson move to adopt the report. Commissioner Fuhrman seconded the motion. It was moved and seconded and unanimously approved that the Review of the Emancipation Services be adopted.

Grand Jury

Commissioner Hill reported that the Task Force had a teleconference where each commissioner reported their findings on selections of one or two recommendations. There would then be eight recommendations that the Grand Jury Task Force could review. Commissioner Hill expressed her appreciation to the commissioners. If there are more recommendations the Task Force will continue to review them. The recommendations would be distributed to the whole Task Force so that at next month's meeting there would be a clear focus on the recommendations for further review. The criteria for the selection were their impact on the County as a whole. (The Grand Jury is required to review and have committees in a number of the areas, i.e., jails, which has a permanent committee.) The Task Force is looking for a recommendation that can be considered for follow-up study. Also a review of the recommendation's status needs to be accomplished before any action is taken.

Commissioner Hill commented on current events in the Grand Jury system. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's Agenda included a recommendation that Supervisor Antonovich instruct County Council to prepare an

ordinance, which would provide compensation of \$25.00 per diem for each day the Civil Grand Jury is in session, with mileage compensation.

There is need to increase the jury pool due to the fact that the Los Angeles Superior Court is one of the busiest courtrooms in the world. If you set aside the jury summons slips three times a \$1,500 fine will be imposed. Commissioner Padilla asked how many people have paid the fine? Commissioner Fuhrman answered that there have been two. Chairman Philibosian mentioned that people do get summoned, and are admonished by the Presiding Judge or the Assistant Presiding Judge who says "You show up or you will pay the \$1,500"; then, the juror will show up.

Commissioner Hill continued by saying that in order to promote the increase of the jury pool Supervisor Antonovich and Chairman Yaroslavsky requested County Council to prepare an ordinance requiring companies contracting with Los Angeles County to provide all of their full time employees with no less than five days of paid jury services within a twelve month period, with the exception of ordinance contract and collective bargaining.

Commissioner Hill commented that studies have shown that the people who do show up have a very positive experience. "One Day, One Trial" and the "phone-in system" have become "state of the art", effective, and informative. Commissioner Simmons stated that the one-day does not apply to downtown Los Angeles. Commissioners Fuhrman and Hill both responded that it would. Commissioner Padilla remarked that he got summoned and will serve in the summer. The form leaves one very little "out", i.e. income questions are now very specific. Commissioner Barcelona asked whether it is normal to get summoned every year. Commissioner Hill responded "Absolutely". Every twelve months you become available. If there is a mistake you must prove that you have already received a notice. Chairman Philibosian recommended saving the previous summons and the juror registration card if a mistake has been made.

Commissioner Fuhrman in observing that Commissioner Hill was looking at specific grand jury recommendations and selecting a few of them, was the Grand Jury Task Force looking at just last years report? Commissioner Hill responded that last month the commissioners received specific assignments for the years including 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 Grand Jury Sessions. Two commissioners will review the recommendations from one of the three years noted.

Organization & Accountability Task Force

Commissioner Oakes being absent, Chairman Philibosian stated that the Executive Director is doing staff work by gathering information on the Workman's Compensation issues.

Economic Development Task Force

Chairman Philibosian mentioned that he spoke with a former Director of Public Works, Harry Stone, who suggested that, the E & E Commission revisit the issue of "payment by credit card" permit fees. It can all be done on line except that a commission is paid to the credit card company. The two or three percent was more than offset by the cost of processing checks, including "bounced" checks. Credit cards would be a benefit to the efficiency of the situation and to the people seeking permits. Chairman Philibosian asked Commissioner Sylva to factor it all in as part of the overall streamlining effort.

X. PRESENTATION (a)

[Mr. Michael P. Judge, Public Defender, Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender](#)

[Topic: State of the Office of the Public Defender](#)

Mr. Judge stated that the Public Defender's Office was one of the oldest in the Country and is capable of dealing with homicide and death penalty cases. The Office has an international reputation and is used as a model for the quality of their indigent defense. The elimination of racial/sexual bias programs have been established within the Office. The Public Defender is also involved with homeless, juvenile and community courts.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor, Chairman Philibosian adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

[Go to February 7, 2002 Agenda](#)

[Return to March 7, 2002](#)



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