
Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, July 10, 2003
ROOM 140, 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 10:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chairman Philibosian asked for a motion to approve absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
John Crowley
Jonathan Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Chun Lee
John L. Lewis
Royal F. Oakes
Roman Padilla
Robert H. Philibosian
Julia Sylva

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Fred Balderrama
Joanne Baltierrez
Hope J. Boonshaft
Annie E. Cho
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Tony Lucente
William J. Petak
G. Thomas Thompson

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 JUNE 5, 2003 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 June 5, 2003 Commission meeting be approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF June 5, 2003 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 June 5, 2003 Commission meeting be approved.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no introductions or announcements.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian stated that he had nothing to report.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grand Jury Report

Mr. Staniforth reported that he received a copy of the Grand Jury Report, and was trying to get a copy for each commissioner. The report is currently available on the Internet at <http://grandjury.co.la.ca.us>.

Commissioner Lewis commented that, for budgetary reasons, there were only 700 copies printed. In addition, this year it is also available on CD. *Commissioner Lewis* will contact the Grand Jury to assist in getting copies of the report. *Chairman Philibosian* pointed out that this year's Grand Jury Report has a major section devoted to Worker's Compensation.

Discussion on Upcoming Agendas

Chairman Philibosian announced that there will not be an August meeting and that the next meeting will be held Thursday, September 4, 2003

Addressing Chairman Philibosian's statement that we do not have a speaker for September, *Commissioner Crowley* suggested that since the Commission is composed of individuals with a variety of backgrounds and experience, the resources exist to discuss ideas, exchange suggestions, and examine how the Commission functions. *Commissioner Sylva* commented that she liked the idea.

Commissioner Hill expressed concerns about keeping the Commission informed about the County's activities and being exposed to the ideas and anticipate organizational directions of County departments. Speakers provide a unique prospective in this time of fiscal crisis in developing Commission recommendations. She feels that to capitalize upon this rapidly changing and continually developing environment that the Commission should maintain a balance that fully utilizes these resources.

Commissioner Sylva agreed with Commissioner Hill and suggested taking this discussion approach perhaps once or twice a year. *Commissioner Crowley* felt that the word "deliberations" conveys the concept that he was trying to put forth. Such an approach, it was noted by *Chairman Philibosian*, will require that an agenda be prepared which identifies the topics to be discussed.

Commissioner Padilla proposed having a speaker, while having task force chairs summarize their activities with the objective of developing ideas for discussion. *Chairman Philibosian* stated that perhaps the Commission could adopt this suggestion by quickly going through the Task Force Reports, giving time to a speaker, and saving sufficient time

for a discussion.

Addressing the question of adequate preparations for such a deliberation session, *Commissioner Padilla* commented that a lunch or another venue would enable commissioners to address issues of interest that would be candidates for discussion. *Chairman Philibosian* felt that a more formal agenda would prove to be more effective in the development of this concept. *Commissioner Hill* stated that if the Commission were to take this approach, each commissioner should suggest topics that they would like to discuss so that others may prepare themselves to contribute to the discussion.

Chairman Philibosian commented that if these suggestions were all complied the Executive Committee could have a role in reviewing and arranging an agenda. *Commissioner Sylva* remarked that, considering the range of experiences on the Commission, the full Commission could be engaged to determine how they can best serve and how these talents can best be utilized.

Commissioner Crowley suggested the possibility of placing the responsibility for the agenda development with a small committee. Their objective would be to consider this approach since the structure and format is still not clear. *Chairman Philibosian* concurred and asked Commissioner Crowley to chair an Ad Hoc Task Force on Commission Deliberations. *Commissioner Crowley* stated that he would be happy to accept this assignment

Commissioner Oakes mentioned that he felt that there was a direct relationship between the amount of agenda preparation and the success of the meeting. A possible approach would be to allow everyone to provide ideas for the first draft and then to distribute it for comment. Upon receipt of these comments, a final agenda could be produced. *Commissioner Oakes* volunteered to be on the Task Force.

Chairman Philibosian observed that this discussion may provide a blueprint for the Commission's 2004 activities. The Chairman requested, so as to insure a consensus, that the proposed agenda be routed through the Executive Committee and that any suggestions by commissioners concerning content be submitted to staff by July 31st.

September Speaker

Commissioner Lewis suggested that the County Auditor Controller, Tyler McCauley be invited to speak and to provide the Commission with his assessment of the Workers Compensation recommendation made in the Grand Jury report. *Commissioner Padilla*, while noting that this was a good idea, suggested a discussion of the State's current fiscal crisis.

VIII. LIASON REPORTS

Local Government Services Commission

No liaison was present to make a presentation

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Hill reported that the Q&P Commission continues its site visits on a two year cycle, having just finished the Fire Department and the CAO's office. The Commission completed a training session for network managers and commissioners, with 22 graduates from the Network Certification Training program. The annual event "Enriching Lives" will be held October 29th at the Music Center.

On September 22nd, at 9:30 a.m., the Q&P Commission is inviting every Commission Chair in Los Angeles County to an all day leadership training event at the Music Center.

The Q&P Commission is heavily involved in performance measurement and the County Strategic Plan. The Commission is now involved in Network Certification Training, with 24 individuals attending the program. The Survival Awareness Program is continuing and the Commission's Annual Report will be available soon for distribution.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS

Emancipation Services Task Force

Since Commissioner Thompson was not present, *Commissioner Fuhrman* commented on the upcoming presentation by the new Director of the Department of Children and Family Services.

Grand Jury Task Force

Commissioner Hill commented that the Grand Jury has been very successful in quickly focusing on conditions in the Long Beach Jail and the youth that have been incarceration therein. These youth will be moved from this facility. *Commissioner Lewis* noted that the California Youth Authority will be the agency that will incarceration them. *Commissioner Hill* then pointed out that there are issues in Torrance that makes it hard for their citizens to file grievances. She mentioned that a number of this year's Grand Jury were former Grand Jury members.

Commissioner Hill commented on an article from the Ventura County Star that noted the lack of enforcement on Brown Act violations. It appears in some case that there is a lack of repercussion on these violations.

As a point of information, *Chairman Philibosian* commented that staff has come up with a new form called "Request to Address the County of Los Angeles Economy & Efficiency Commission" to insure the adequate recognition of members of the public addressing the Commission.

Organization and Accountability Task Force

Commissioner Oakes commented that he has reviewed the Grand Jury report on Workers Compensation, as well as the draft report that staff has prepared. The scope of the Grand Jury analysis focused on four organizations, LA County Fire, LA City Fire, Sheriff Department, and Metropolitan Transit Authority. They indicated that between \$300-400 million was spent in the County for 2002-2003. The last 5 years has seen a doubling for the County Fire and Sheriff Department, and the Los Angeles City Fire. The most dramatic increase has been in the Sheriff Department. Although there has been a 16 percent increase in employees over the last 5 years, there has been a 92 percent increase in Workers Compensation pay outs. Grand Jury also considered the causes of medical costs are sky rocketing, benefits escalation, benefit abuse and legislated benefit increases.

The Grand Jury proposed possible solutions such as mandatory annual medical examinations for employees. Grand Jury makes recommendations for City and County Fire, and Sheriff Department, medical cost containment, recommend allocating funds to settle claims, legislations tried to impose state fee schedules, encouraging early return to work programs, litigation management allowing the CAO office to have more oversight on the litigation process, the shifting of claims settlement from the County council to third party administrator, a change in the fee structure for outside defense attorney from a flat fee to fees base on services provided, and ideas on safety and loss preventions.

The report outline prepared by staff focuses on the issues of fraud. Report points out that it is a big problem nationally estimating that 25 percent of all workman compensation claims are fraudulent. It further considers the LA County Workman Compensation program, risk management structure, and current anti-fraud effects. The outline also has a section on fraud activities within other governmental jurisdictions and the private sector. It then concludes with recommendations for cutting Los Angeles County fraud.

X. PRESENTATION

Chairman Philibosian introduced Dr. Sanders and welcomed him to the meeting

[Dr. David Sanders, Director](#)
[Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services](#)
[Topic: The Future Direction of the Department of Children and Family Services](#)

Dr. Sanders discussed with the Commission his impression of the problems facing the Department of Children and Family Services and some of the approaches he intends on taking to resolve these situations.

The summary of Dr. Sanders presentation can be found on the Citizens' Economy and Efficiency Commission's Web Site through its presentation link at <http://eec.co.la.ca.us>.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS (Continued)

Organization and Accountability Task Force (continued)

Commissioner Oakes reported that the task force will work with staff to advance its project.

Economic Development Task Force

Commissioner Sylva commented that the County has a process in place for selected County departments to address the

plans of Board of Supervisor to promote economic development in the County, while strengthen the streamlining of the process. The task force has been following up with the CAO office and serving on Economic Development Steering Committee. The County's Economy Development Commission also developed a Business Technology Center to promote small business in El Camino.

Sheriff's Transportation Task Force

Commissioner Anderson commented that we have received a report from the Sheriff on some research they have been done on video arraignment around the country. They have identified a couple of agencies that are engaged in video arraignment. The next meeting of the task force will be with the District Attorney's Office. Meetings with the Public Defender and Courts will follow.

Asset Management

Commissioner Lucente was not present, so no report was given.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

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 11:50 am.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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