

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
September 1, 2022**

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

With the presence of a quorum, Chair Cole called the Commission meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

2. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Robert Cole
Benjamin Everard
Jacob Haik
Larry Kaplan
Katherine McKeon
Robert Philibosian
Wilma Pinder
Yolanda Rodriguez-Pena
Joanne D. Saliba
John Anthony Schmitz
Connie Sullivan
Craig Taubman
Jennifer Williams
Cesar Zaldivar-Motts

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Josue Alvarado
Becca Doten
Jeffrey Monical
Natalie Samarjian

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2, 2022, MINUTES

Chair Cole asked if there were any objections or changes to the minutes of the June 2, 2022, Commission meeting. Hearing no changes, the motion was then Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The minutes of the June 2, 2022, Commission meeting were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER

Executive Director Eng reported that on Tuesday, June 2, 2022, the Board of Supervisors appointed Jennifer Williams, to the Los Angeles County Citizens' Economy and Efficiency Commission. Executive Director Eng welcomed Commissioner Williams to the Commission and asked her to tell the Commission a little bit about herself.

Commissioner Williams reported that she was born in the 2nd District, moved out of the district to gain better education opportunities, and returned to District 2 in 2013. She said that she is a CPA and worked at Price Waterhouse Coopers for eight years as a financial statement auditor. She said given the Charter and the mission of this Commission, she felt like she had a lot to contribute to this commission.

Chair Cole thanked Commissioner Williams for her introduction and stated that he would like to officially welcome Commissioner Williams to the Commission and stated that the Commission is honored to have her and her expertise.

Chair Emeritus Philibosian also welcomed Commissioner Williams to the E&E Commission. He said that the best words of wisdom are to attend every meeting and because of Commissioner William's background, he feels that she will be engaged. He also explained that the E&E Commission has various task forces that she might be interested in serving.

6. REPORTS

i. CCJCC

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the meeting was canceled.

ii. TASK FORCE PROJECT REPORTS

a. East Los Angeles Entrepreneur Center:

Commissioner Williams reported that it was fantastic to be invited to speak about the tour that took place on July 11, 2022. She stated that the 1st District spent an estimated \$200,000 to set up the center to be a one-stop facility for entrepreneurs or folks who are thinking about becoming entrepreneurs. She reported that this entrepreneur center focuses on three categories of services:

1. Concierge that focuses on connecting small business owners to permits, and licenses,
2. Government Contract Certifications for local small businesses, and
3. Procurement assistance for businesses that want to do business with the county.

Commissioner Williams stated that the biggest challenge that she observed was the lack of staffing and if there's a way for the Commission to advocate for more staffing to this facility. She also reported that due to ARPA funding in 2024, there will be four new programs:

1. Legal aid, with attorneys assigned to help small business owners with contractual needs, collections, and lease agreements,
2. Sidewalk vending, in which the county is looking to provide a limited number of code-compliant carts including alternative commissary spaces,
3. Grants of up to \$47 million to micro-entrepreneurs, small businesses, small nonprofits, and struggling organizations coming out of the pandemic, and
4. Entrepreneurship Academy, which will be a three to a four-month training program, with participants getting grants at the end of the program.

Commissioner Williams requested that the Commission start a task force around starting an entrepreneurial center within the 2nd district. Commissioner Williams stated that since having toured the facility, she has spoken to many stakeholders in District 2, and everyone has expressed support for a entrepreneurship center.

Commissioner Saliba commended on a great report from Commissioner Williams.

Chair Emeritus Philibosian stated that the 2nd District commissioners should reach out to their district to see if they are on board with such a project and see if there is funding for this type of project.

Commissioner McKeon reported that Supervisor Mitchell has put forward a motion to look at putting one of these centers in District 2, so the Commission should probably just look at the agendas for the past six or seven months to see if that's accurate.

b. Hybrid Work 2.0 Taskforce:

Commissioner Saliba reported that DHR Manager, Ms. Keshia McCullough, has agreed to meet with the task force sometime in October.

Executive Director Eng reported that the task force will be collaborating with DHR to assess how the County is progressing with a mostly hybrid workforce.

c. Assessing Video Arraignment Taskforce:

Commissioner Saliba reported that the task force is very frustrated because the task force has reached out to various department contacts who formerly served on the video arraignment task force, but unfortunately, they have either retired or didn't return calls.

Executive Director Eng reported that the video technology has continued to work well in some courts such as family and juvenile courts. In those instances, he stated that litigants/defendants are not missing appointments and meetings because when the hearings are conducted online, they don't have to get babysitters or miss work to be present. He reported that when it comes to inmates in the criminal system, there appears to be no efficiency.

Executive Director Eng reported that the task force will issue a summary report for the commission to read and approve in the next couple of meetings.

d. Worker's Compensation Taskforce:

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the task force had two meetings and is still in its infancy stages. She reported that the task force is going to be looking at various aspects of the worker's comp program and experience including the claims and the return-to-work components.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the return-to-work program where the department brought people back to work while they were still healing from their work-related injuries were put in temporary assignments until they were deemed permanent ended in 2003. She also reported that she asked intern Toni to research to see if there was still a best practice in other agencies that provide people with temporary work assignments while they're improving medically. She reported that Toni determined, yes, it is still a best practice, and she also discovered that the county program moved back to DHR.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that some years ago the return-to-work unit was housed in the risk management branch, but recently, it was moved to the Department of Human Resources. She reported that intern Toni did a great job of looking at other agencies for early return-to-work programs and their history.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that one of the questions she has is when they start work and return from an injury, how early in their disability does that start, and are all departments implementing this equally?

Commissioner Sullivan reported that on the claim side, the task force provided several questions to risk management and they provided some written answers including their annual report. She reported that the report generates a lot more questions and the task force will be getting together with the risk management staff to discuss those thoughts and questions.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that the questions that the task force has on the program are mostly ancillary that are designed to save money, like the subrogation and fraud programs.

7. PRESENTATION

There was no guest speaker for the September Meeting.

8. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner Williams reported that she was born in an unincorporated neighborhood of Willow Brook, and she currently lives in an unincorporated neighborhood called Westmont in District 2. She also reported that she and other community members spoke up about how there's a pretty large number of black LA County residents that don't live in LA City and therefore would not be able to benefit from the great work that the LA City Commission would be doing. She reported that as a result of that comment, in June, she and a few other District 2 Commissioners as well as Supervisor Mitchell were invited to the LA City commissions in August, in which LA City commissioners expressed that they want to collaborate with the county to include in the areas of LA County where there are significant black populations

Commissioner Taubman reported that the Pico Union project was just awarded a significant grant from United Way to essentially create an entrepreneurial center in our space. He reported

that they are currently employing nearly twenty people in our community and it's a very, at-risk area in the Pico-Union District.

Commissioner Taubman reported that he would like to support Commissioner Williams for such an entrepreneurial center.

Commissioner Motts reported that he wanted to remind the Commission of the Commissioner's reception that will take place in September.

9. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Administrative Assistant Pittmon reported that all taskforce is scheduled to meet on the last Monday of every month. The next meetings are scheduled for Monday, October 31, 2022.

Administrative Assistant Pittmon reported that the guest speaker for the October meeting will be the Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity Director, Ms. Kelly LoBianco. She also reported that the guest speaker for November will be Commission Services Director, Ms. Twila Kerr.

Executive Director Eng reported that he would like to thank Commissioner Williams for the report on the Entrepreneur Center. He reported that he will set up a meeting with senior deputy Caroline Torosis to discuss the project idea and see if it's something the 2nd District would be interested in.

Executive Director Eng reported that he would also like to thank Commissioner Sullivan for her leadership on the Workers' Comp project. He stated that it is a very complicated project, and while everyone on the task force is trying to acquire knowledge on workers' comp programs, she was able to move the task force forward with her expertise. He also thanked E&E Intern Toni Mankowitz and her work, input, research, and presentation to the task force.

Executive Director Eng reported that he would like to congratulate Administrative Assistant Pittmon on her promotion to now becoming a Senior Board Specialist for the Executive Office. He reported that he had been working on the promotion for a while and was excited that it finally was approved.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Cole at 11:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

September 1, 2022
Commission Meeting



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Eng", is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Executive Director, Edward Eng