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## **Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes**

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2000  
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 Abel called the Commission meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

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

##### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

David A. Abel  
Fred Balderrama  
Hope J. Boonshaft  
John Crowley  
David W. Farrar  
Johnathan Fuhrman  
Jaclyn Tilley Hill  
Michael Jimenez  
Jeanne L. Kennedy  
Chun Lee  
Tony Lucente  
Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough  
Royal F. Oakes  
Roman Padilla  
William J. Petak  
Robert H. Philiposian  
Marc A. Seidner  
H. Randall Stoke  
Julia E. Sylva  
Tony Tortorice

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

G. Thomas Thompson

## COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

None

It was Moved, Seconded and Adopted: **The Commission members noted above be excused.**

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Abel 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 December 2, 1999 Commission meeting be approved.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### 3. Constitutional Revision Task Force

Chairman Abel said that an offshoot of the State's initial Constitutional Revision Commission was the creation of the Speakers Commission on State and Local Government Finance. He commented that at a meeting in Sacramento on January 5, 2000 the Speakers Commission unanimously adopted a set of recommendations covering both fiscal and accountability issues. He added that these recommendations were well received in Sacramento and would be submitted to a joint Senate and Assembly Committee, for consideration.

Commissioner Stoke asked if this report had been memorialized. Chairman Abel replied that it would be. Commissioner Stoke wanted to know if after the report was memorialized whether the Economy & Efficiency Commission would be able to obtain a copy. Chairman Abel said that the Commission would receive a copy.

Commissioner Crowley asked about the name of the interim committee. Chairman Abel said that a Joint Senate/Assembly Committee would be created for this session. Commissioner Crowley wanted to know if this would be a permanent committee. Chairman Abel answered that it would not. He continued saying that this report would be considered by the Commission for the Twenty-First Century Governance report, as well as the Speakers Commission on State and Local Government Finance report.

Commissioner Farrar asked about the role of Senator Peace with respect to this committee. Commissioner Abel replied that Senator Peace will have his own committee, but was asked by Senator Burton to also be on the Senate/Assembly Committee. He is the Budget Chair of the Senate and has been tasked by Senator Burton to look at a major overhaul of the fiscal structure of California tax laws.

### 6. Real Asset Management

Vice-Chairman Lucente said that the Asset Management Task Force has previously suggested to the Commission that it felt a need to implement an independent audit of the county's asset management function. This need was based on the fact that the recommendations, from both this Commission and the Quality and Productivity Commission, are not moving forward. In addition, it has been brought to the attention of this Commission that the County recently purchased a piece of property that will cost as much to retrofit as the original cost of the property. This may have ramifications in evaluating the asset management function.

Vice-Chairman Lucente said that Commissioner Hill and he felt that an approach that could be taken was that this Commission, with the support of the Quality & Productivity Commission, advise the Board of Supervisors that information was being gathered to support an independent audit. Vice-Chairman Lucente, referring the Commission to a draft letter included in their agenda packet, said that this letter would advise the Supervisors of the Commission's intent.

Chairman Abel asked the Commission if they had any comments on this issue.

Commissioner Stoke said that he appreciates the work of the committee and feels that it is going in the right direction. He wanted to suggest that due to the magnitude of the undertaking that the letter be submitted to the Chair of the Commission for consideration and signature. He also suggested that before submission to the Board of Supervisors it be circulated through the board offices for review.

Commissioner Farrar said that he agreed with Commissioner Stoke and that this issue should be pursued with the greatest diplomacy and tact in order to achieve the best results.

Commissioner Hill commented that she was in favor of proceeding with the letter. She said that she had done research on the matter and that the Department of Public Works, who has condemned the building, has a criteria far exceeding

standard earthquake code. The building is in fact safe.

Commissioner Farrar interjected that as chair of the committee he would like to make a motion that the matter be brought back before the Commission at the next scheduled meeting. He said that the Task Force's next scheduled meeting is January 20 and could report any further developments at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Crowley commented that the motion does not address a question that Commissioner Hill raised, which troubles him. Namely, that the criteria used by the Department of Public Works, in respect to the Parks & Recreation building, are excessive. He wanted to know who was making the judgement as to what criteria is used to determine whether a building is determined to be occupiable by the public or by county employees. Commissioner Stoke answered saying that the Public Works Department of the County has certain criteria that all other departments in the County must meet, even though they may be stricter than those used by private industry or other public agencies.

#### **IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **VI. PRESENTATION (a)**

Chairman Abel, in welcoming Ms. Sorensen, said that the consolidation of the Municipal and Superior Courts and its effects on Los Angeles are of importance to the County.

[Ms. Joi Sorensen, Assistant to the Executive Officer, Los Angeles Superior Court](#)  
[Topic: Los Angeles Trial Court Unification](#)

Ms. Sorensen discussed what has happened in the past regarding the coordination and consolidation of the Municipal and Superior Courts, an explanation of terms, and the present status of these efforts. After her presentation she was thanked by Chairman Abel who then asked her if she would report back to the Commission on these consolidation efforts.

At this point the Chairman suggested a 5 minute recess, which was taken.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Abel calling new business out of order said that he would like the election of the new Chair to come before the Commission. He asked Commissioner Hill to give the report of the Nominating Committee.

Commissioner Hill stated that the Nominating Committee had met, with the district representation as follows:

Representing

- The First Supervisorial District - Commissioner Sylva
- The Second Supervisorial District - Commissioner Farrar
- The Third Supervisorial District - Commissioner Boonshaft
- The Forth Supervisorial District - Commissioner Hill
- The Fifth Supervisorial District - Commissioner Stoke

Commissioner Hill continued saying that the committee has inquired into the interest of each Commissioner in being considered for the position of Chair. The committee has determined that two qualified candidates desire to be considered for the position of Chair. The candidates are Vice Chair Tony Lucente and Commissioner Robert H. Philibosian.

After recognition by Chairman Abel, Vice Chair Lucente shared that he had given this matter much thought and he appreciates the opportunity to serve the Commission in a leadership capacity. However, he stated that he wanted to defer to Commissioner Philibosian. He felt that there is much work before the Commission and he felt that it was critical for the Commission to be fully unified in pursuing these objectives. Vice Chair Lucente thus withdrew his candidacy. He then made the motion that the nominations be closed and that the Commission elect Commissioner Philibosian to the position of Chair by acclamation. It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: Commissioner Philibosian be elected to the position of Chair unanimously

Commissioner Philibosian thanked the Commission for their confidence in him through his election. He said that he particularly wanted to thank Vice Chair Lucente for his very gracious remarks, and accepted them with a great deal of humility. He added that there was tremendous talent arrayed in the room and encouraged Commissioners to attend meetings to contribute to carrying out the objectives that we will set forth for ourselves. Commission Philibosian said

that he wanted to congratulate and thank Chairman Abel, who has done a fantastic job as chairman. Chairman Abel has spent a tremendous amount of his time and his personal credibility in advancing this Commission with County, State and local officials. He added that he wanted to give Chairman Abel his personal note of thanks.

#### **VI. PRESENTATION (b)**

Chairman Abel, in welcoming Mr. Alpert, remarked that Mr. Alpert's presentation is of importance both to the City and the region. As we think globally and act locally it becomes even more important.

[Mr. Lee Kanon Alpert, Esq., President, Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners](#)  
[Topic: The Development of Neighborhood Councils Within the City of Los Angeles](#)

Mr. Alpert said that, as part of the Charter Reform Package, the Mayor had proposed, and the people had decided, to establish a Department of Neighborhood Empowerment in the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Alpert continued that the empowerment for the communities lies in the establishment of the neighborhood councils and the creation of a department that is responsive to the neighborhood. Chairman Abel thanked Mr. Alpert and recognized the value of the efforts being undertaken by his Board.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS (Continued)**

##### 7. Grand Jury Implementation

Chairman Abel asked Commissioner Kennedy if she had a report. Commissioner Kennedy stated that the Grand Jury Implementation Task Force would like to invite the Probation Department to make a presentation on their strategic plan particularly on the department's capital planning efforts. She added that, unless there is an objection, she is proposing that the Commission schedule the presentation for the next meeting, or as soon as possible thereafter.

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion from the floor, Chairman Abel adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth  
Executive Director

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