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

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

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 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**

Chairman Philibosian opened the proceedings as a meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 10:15 a.m.

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

Chairman Philibosian asked Mr. Staniforth if he would report on which commissioners were planning on attending this meeting and those who were not. He added that this was a report, not an approval item.

Mr. Staniforth provided this.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Philibosian said that he would give the Executive Task Force report. The adopted Mission Statement of the Task Force is as follows:

The mission of the Executive Task Force is to act as an oversight and coordinating body for the Commission. In this capacity the Task Force will take those actions necessary to coordinate the activities of Commission task forces to insure that the objectives of the Commission are being achieved. This Task Force will also function to resolve any critical and time sensitive issues that arise between Commission meetings.

Chairman Philibosian stated that the Executive Task Force would be meeting on an as needed basis, probably meeting approximately once a month.

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

Chairman Philibosian asked Mr. Staniforth to give the Executive Director's report.

Mr. Staniforth outlined the various documents that had been distributed to the Commission including the three documents pertaining to the presentation for this meeting. He pointed out the Milkin Institute flier advertising a forum they were having, suggesting that the commissioners might be interested in the presentation May 9, 2000 by Alvin Toffler.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS (continued)**

Chairman Philibosian stating that Commissioner Sylva had to leave early asked if she would give her report as Chair of the Policy Task Force.

Commissioner Sylva stated that the Policy Task Force met via e-mail and telephone and that their adopted the following Mission Statement:

The mission of the Policy Task Force is to make county policy more efficient and effective. Policy includes the wise, prudent, and expedient conduct, management and operation of matters that involve all of the organizational elements of the county (e.g., economies of scale, contracting, accounting, pension structure, affirmative action, security, purchasing, intergovernmental relations, information technology, etc.); in other words, those activities that are not departmentally specific.

Commissioner Sylva then gave a short description of the proposed projects for the Task Force. She continued saying that the project of most interest is the participation with the Twenty-First Century Governance Committee of the State in reviewing local fiscal governance.

Chairman Philibosian said that the Executive Task Force will review all the recommendations for proposed projects and assist in setting priorities. He suggested that the task forces prioritize the listing of their projects.

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

[Mr. Mark Baldassare, Public Policy Institute of California](#)  
*Topic: The Future of Los Angeles County Finance*

After Commissioner Sylva's presentation, Chairman Philibosian recognized the speakers, Dr. Mark Baldassare and Dr. Chris Hoene from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Dr. Baldassare discussed the report "Risky Business: Providing Local Public Services in Los Angeles County" submitted to the County by PPIC. This report identifies fiscal and organizational strains involved in providing county services; describes the system for financial services at different jurisdictional levels; and suggests alternative organizational and fiscal arrangements for service provision.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER OF COMMISSION MEETING (continued)**

At this point in the meeting a quorum of commissioners was achieved and Chairman Philibosian called the meeting of the full Commission to order at 11:00 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES (continued)**

### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Fred Balderrama  
Hope J. Boonshaft  
David W. Farrar  
Jaclyn Tilley Hill  
Michael Jimenez  
Jeanne L. Kennedy  
Royal F. Oakes  
Roman Padilla  
Robert H. Philibosian  
Julia Sylva

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

David Abel  
John Crowley  
Jonathan Fuhrman  
Chun Lee  
Tony Lucente  
William J. Petak  
H. Randall Stoke

G. Thomas Thompson  
Tony Tortorice

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

Marc A. Seidner

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

### **III. APPROVAL OF 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 April 6, 2000 Commission meeting be approved.

### **VI. OLD BUSINESS (continued)**

Chairman Philibosian summarized previous proceedings for recently arrived commissioners. Stating that Commissioner Sylva would be leaving early Chairman Philibosian asked if anyone had any questions for her regarding the Policy Task Force.

Chairman Philibosian said that the Finance Task Force would be next to give a report. He reported that the Chairman of the Finance Task Force could not attend this meeting and asked Mr. Staniforth if he or one of the members of the task force had anything to report. Commissioner Padilla said that there was nothing to report at this time.

Chairman Philibosian stated that Commissioner Thompson, Chair of the Finance Task Force, would be away for two months and asked if Commissioner Padilla would assume the position of Chair Pro Tem. Commissioner Padilla accepted the appointment.

Chairman Philibosian asked Commissioner Hill, as the chair, if she would report on the Grand Jury Task Force.

Commissioner Hill reported that the Grand Jury Task Force intended to rely primarily on teleconferencing to conduct its business. She said that their adopted Mission Statement is as follows:

The mission of this task force is to review, analyze, and enhance the implementation of the recommendations of the Los Angeles County Grand Juries. These tasks are undertaken considering their impact on the economy, efficiency and/or effectiveness of county government. The task force will provide further advice, suggestions, and follow up on selected grand jury recommendations. In doing so, these efforts bring continuity to subsequent and future related Grand Jury Task Force understandings and focus on County responsiveness and accountability to past recommendations.

Commissioner Hill iterated the areas of interest for proposed projects, specifically following up on the recommendations of the Grand Jury for the Probation Department. She added that she would like to examine the feasibility of the Economy & Efficiency Commission becoming involved with the diversity issue as it applies to the Grand Jury.

Chairman Philibosian interjected that he was pleased that Commissioner Hill mentioned diversity issue. After a brief explanation of the procedures involved with grand jury selection he commented that he had a conversation with Judge Chavez, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, and with the President of the County Bar Association on the diversity issue. He suggested that this might be a good project for the task force to develop recommendations. He said that there was insufficient information about grand jury service available to the public.

Chairman Philibosian asked Commissioner Oakes if he would report on the Organization and Accountability Task Force.

Commissioner Oakes said that the task force met by conference call and adopted the following Mission Statement:

The mission of this task force is to review issues and make recommendations dealing with the organization, management, responsibilities and operational accountability of any unit or sub-unit of Los Angeles County Government. The issues to be reviewed will normally address matters of interest to specific organizational elements of the county, i.e. reorganization studies, efficiency of operational procedures, the effectiveness of departmental interactions, managerial responsibilities, etc.

Commissioner Oakes continued with an explanation of their proposed projects. He added that during the conference call the meaning of "Organization and Accountability" and the possibility of overlap with other task forces was

discussed. It was decided that the task force would continue to examine and refine the meaning of "Organization and Accountability". The task force is looking to the feasibility of examining problems by going to the source to find out from people who work in and for the county if they felt there were problems in the areas of efficiency and organization.

Chairman Philibosian said that there was an article in the Los Angeles Times last week about the rising incidence of child deaths among children in foster care. In that article was a statement that there were various data bases that do not seem to communicate with each other. This might be an area for task force consideration.

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

Mr. Andes, liaison from the Los Angeles County Commission on Local Government Services, reported to the Commission that his Commission was planning on addressing the grid lock problems in the Los Angeles County area. He continued with an explanation of the methodology for addressing the issue. Mr. Andes explained several other issues the Commission was planning on pursuing. He said that he would supply Economy and Efficiency staff with documentation and reports for distribution.

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

None

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

None

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth  
Executive Director

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Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 163, 500 West Temple St.,  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone (213) 974-1491 FAX (213) 620-1437 [EMail\\_eecomm@co.la.ca.us](mailto:EMail_eecomm@co.la.ca.us)  
WEB [eec.co.la.ca.us](http://eec.co.la.ca.us)