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

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

THURSDAY, March 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 and the absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Lucente called the Commission meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

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

Vice Chair Lucente asked for a motion to approve absences.

#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Fred Balderrama  
Isaac Diaz Barcelona  
Annie E. Cho  
John Crowley  
David W. Farrar  
Jonathan Fuhrman  
Jaclyn Tilley Hill  
Tony Lucente  
Royal F. Oakes  
Robert H. Philiposian  
Julia Sylva  
G. Thomas Thompson  
Tony Tortorice

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

Clayton Anderson  
Hope J. Boonshaft  
Chun Lee  
Roman Padilla  
William J. Petak

Clinton Simmons

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

Joanne Baltierrez

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 February 7, 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 February 7, 2002 Commission meeting be approved.

### **V. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Staniforth introduced his new assistant, David Lund. The commissioners welcomed David to the Commission. Vice Chair Lucente noted that a congratulatory card for Ms. Gill on her move to the Executive Office would be in order as a means of expressing thanks for her hard work for the Commission.

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

Mr. Staniforth stated that he had some additional tickets to Six Flags Magic Mountain, as noted in an earlier email to the commissioners.

He reported that ID cards had all been distributed to commissioners. Commissioner Baltierrez still has to return her old card.

Mr. Staniforth further stated that he had tentatively scheduled Sharon Watson, the consultant who assisted with the Emancipation Report, to discuss the housing situation for emancipated youth.

### **VIII. LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Local Government Services Commission**

Commissioner Andes was not present

#### **Quality and Productivity Commission**

In Commissioner Anderson's absence, Mr. Staniforth advised that he had received a phone call from Commissioner Waddell who stated that he was appointed liaison from the Quality and Productivity Commission, but that he could not make it to the meeting today.

Commissioner Hill, on behalf of Commissioner Waddell, commented that the Commission was continuing site visits, recently visiting the Library, County Council and Military and Veterans Affairs. They were also aggressively seeking proposals for the Productivity Investment Fund, which has become a significant alternate funding source for departments. The Quality and Productivity Commission had a recent ceremony in which they recognized their private partners and thirteen County departments in energy savings. They were able to reduce the County's energy usage by 10% or more within the campaign time frame of June to October. This resulted in an actual savings to the County of \$2.5 million dollars.

Commissioner Hill also discussed the \$2 million stand-alone grant project. This is a stand alone, one-time opportunity for departments to receive up to a \$2 million grant. The objective is to generate and create innovative thinking. Commissioner Thompson, stated that both the Probation Department and The Department of Public Social Service are excited about the grant, but he wanted to know if a project was less than \$2 million, say \$250 thousand, would it be considered for the grant as well. Commissioner Hill advised that projects less than the \$2 million target were probably better funded through other channels. The deadline for submissions is April 5, 2002.

### **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Crowley commented that he felt that it would be desirable for the Economy and Efficiency Commission to consider the questions raised about the ranking of the County by Governing Magazine. It may be of value to devote attention and effort to address those areas that have been designated as examples of weak economy and efficiency. Vice Chair Lucente asked staff to get copy of the report before the next meeting of the Commission.

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With these comments in mind, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: Direct the Executive Director obtain a copy of the report before the next meeting so that the Commission could determine the nature of the response, if any.

Commissioner Tortorice commented that in the late 80's he had designed a system to track the status of internal audit recommendations for the Department of Health Services. This system tracked who had completed implementation and if not completed, when it would be or what issues were preventing completion. He advised that even this simple reporting technique provided with the department with assistance in keeping abreast of the progress of recommendations.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS**

### **Emancipation Services Task Force**

Commissioner Thompson reported that the Board of Supervisors had considered the report on Emancipation Services and had made several amendments to it. Although the final motion had not yet been published, Mr. Staniforth stated that were two major issues. First, the creation of a committee with a representative from each district to look into housing policy issues. Second, to have the DCFS report on the costs and time associated with implementing the report's recommendations and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Thompson noted that the exact motion of the Board would be available by the next meeting of the Commission and that some of these items would make more sense once the final wording was known. He mentioned that he assumed the committee would be looking at the entire County, rather than having each person review their respective jurisdiction.

## **X. PRESENTATION (a)**

[Dr. Carlos Jackson, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Community Development Commission](#)

[Topic: Overview of the Community Development Commission](#)

Dr. Jackson presented the Community Development Commission (CDC) as the County's housing, community and economic development agency for the unincorporated parts of LA County. The CDC's goals are to strengthen neighborhoods by supporting local economies, empowering families and promoting individual achievement. The Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, Community Development Block Grant Program, Economic Development, and Affordable Housing Development Programs are just a few of the programs supported by the CDC.

## **VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Philibosian greeted the Commission and apologized for being late to the meeting. He commented on the Emancipation Services Report. He stated that the Board of Supervisors was taking the report seriously and had made several amendments. He felt this showed the level of interest by the Supervisors and was a credit to the Task Force. He stated that the Commission had done a good job in this matter and had succeeded in raising the level of interest on an important issue.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS (Continued)**

### **Grand Jury**

Commissioner Hill stated that a recent Task Force meeting continued the review of ideas. She explained that the Task Force was concentrating on areas that would have a widespread effect in the County and which would not have been previously covered. The task force is working on narrowing down the list to a couple ideas.

### **Organization & Accountability Task Force**

Commissioner Oakes stated that his Task Force had been considering Workers' Compensation issues and that Mr. Staniforth had provided a lot of information about previous studies and recent controversies regarding claims. In May 2001, a consultant's report indicated that risk management should be concentrated within a single entity rather than being distributed widely through four or five agencies. In November 2001 an additional report on the County Counsel's role in this process indicated that their role should be limited, focusing instead on areas where County liability was at stake. In late December, the Auditor/Controller sent a letter to the Board summarizing these reports and pointing out the urgent need to cut the payouts for medical malpractice and workers compensation. In February 2002, the CAO sent a memo to the Board of Supervisors recommending a plan of action to implement the recommendations of the consultants. A concern is the large number of groups already involved in this process. Perhaps the Commission could look at the recommendations with the intent of helping prioritizing them.

Chairman Philibosian affirmed the concerns of Commissioner Oakes about the number of parties involved in this process, questioning whether or not they were prioritizing and focusing individually or whether they were looking at it broadly, remaining focused on solutions. Commissioner Oakes responded by saying that issues, such as County Counsel's involvement, could distract people's attention from the essence of the recommendations, which was the centralization of risk management. He suggested that a review of the existing recommendations might be the next step in determining this Commission's involvement. He also wished to canvas this group and the Supervisors to get their interest level in this Commission being involved. Chairman Philibosian agreed that getting the Supervisors perspective was important and that a first point of departure in this regard would be to survey the relevant Supervisors deputies.

Chairman Philibosian questioned the County's activities to proactively prevent injuries. Commissioner Oakes responded that this was something else the Commission could look into because the topic had been shunted aside with so much attention focused on the lack of fraud prosecution in the last ten years.

Commissioner Fuhrman commented that it was the risk manager who typically initiated preventive type measures and that hiring a risk manager would start proactive programs. Chairman Philibosian commented that there were probably well-defined prevention programs available. Commissioner Fuhrman responded that insurers did have such programs, but that the first task was analyzing data to find the sources of claims in the County and then address the worst categories first. In response to Commissioner Thompson's comment, Commissioner Fuhrman replied that the reports should indicate the presence of existing data or reports on the sources of claims.

Chairman Philibosian agreed with Commissioner Fuhrman and stated that the Commission should probably review the reports before the deputies for the respective Supervisors were involved in discussions. He further noted that Commissioner Fuhrman might be a good member of the task force and added him as a member.

### **Economic Development**

Commissioner Sylva discussed an Economic Development Task Force Summit memo which included several deadlines for permit streamlining activities. She advised this group should meet hopefully before September 2002 and then in September 2003 would present recommendations. Commissioner Sylva stated she had been commenting on this process for the last six months and the CAO had been following the recommendations given. She asked Mr. Staniforth to set up a meeting for the task force within the next thirty days so they could coordinate responses and activities.

### **XI. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

Chairman Philibosian discussed the speaker for next month's meeting, questioning the Commission to see if there were any particular interests. Mr. Staniforth noted that the Assessor had been asked to speak, but that he had wanted to wait until after the election. The Commission agreed to ask the Assessor to speak to the group at the next meeting.

Commissioner Thompson commented that he had become particularly interested in the state of the Public Health System. Commissioner Balderrama said he would like to hear from someone on Airport security but the Commission noted that airport security was not a County function.

Commissioner Balderrama inquired about the funding for the Asian Task Force, which was an important program in areas with a high proportion of Asian residents like Monterey Park. Commissioner Hill stated that she had seen a report on this subject by the Sheriff. Commissioner Balderrama noted that his concern was with the funding on the program. Chairman Philibosian said that the Commission could look at the funding, especially as the lack of funding may influence business in the affected areas as a result of the decreased law enforcement by the Asian Task Force. He asked Commissioner Balderrama if he wanted to check with the Sheriff's department on the Asian Task Force to see if they wanted this Commission to take a look at it. Commissioner Balderrama agreed.

Commissioner Farrar stated that he had recently been to a meeting of the Joint Powers Authority between the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles where they were discussing setting up a joint crime lab. At this meeting, the DA presented information on the deficiency in the state and US in basic DNA testing with the California ranked

49th among the states. He felt this could be an issue for this Commission because there are economies to be achieved with respect to law enforcement, prevention and identification of criminals. He noted that the DA had also pointed out the backlog for testing and processing samples is approximately four years.

Chairman Philibosian commented that we now had a number of potential speakers for the future and with respect to DNA, if we can spend County money appropriately to prevent crime then we will not only prevent individuals from being victimized, we are also preventing the expenditure of money to apprehend and prosecute the offenders. With respect to the delay in processing the samples, there is a DNA Bank used by the State Department of Justice and ideally both agencies should be getting as many records into the DNA Bank as possible. He noted that this could be a big issue in the very near future since close to fifty county agencies needed these same services.

## **XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commissioner Balderrama announced that he would be sworn in as Mayor of Monterey Park for the 3rd time on April 8, with a reception to be held on April 12th.

Commissioner Farrar announced that he had been nominated by the Mayor to be the Chairman of the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency. He advised that he is still in the process of getting his background check and getting approved. He also stated that there was a chance of him resigning from this Commission should a current conflict of meeting schedules continue to exist after he is appointed.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth  
Executive Director

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