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Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, March 4, 2004

ROOM 830, 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

With the presence of a quorum, Chairman Philibosian called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chairman Philibosian asked for a motion to approve absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Fred Balderrama
Joanne Baltierrez
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Annie E. Cho
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Chun Lee
Robert H. Philibosian
Julia Sylva
Ira Thierer
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Jonathan Fuhrman
Tony Lucente
Royal F. Oakes
Roman Padilla
William J. Petak
G. Thomas Thompson

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

Hope J. Boonshaft
John Crowley

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 of the February 5, 2004 Commission meeting. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the February 5, 2004 Commission meeting are approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF PRESENTATION

Chairman Philibosian asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation of the February 5, 2004 Commission meeting. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The presentation of the February 5, 2004 Commission meeting is approved.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

No introductions or announcements were made.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Philibosian stated that he did not have a report at this time.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth noted that there has been a clarification of last month's memo regarding the issuance of parking passes and identification badges. The Executive Office clarified their policy regarding the expiration of these documents. Commissioners can be issued new documents for one year if they have yet to be reappointed; if reappointed, a commissioner will have documents reissued that are valid until the end of their term. Chairman Philibosian recommended that all commissioners keep their initial application forms, as this will considerably simplify the reappointment process. He also reminded commissioners to refer any questions or problems regarding these documents to Mr. Staniforth.

Mr. Staniforth mentioned that he had recently reviewed some of the commissioners' biographies on the website and suggested that they be reviewed since some of them appear to be out of date.

Commissioner Balderrama mentioned that he had recently noticed on the website a sentence under his name stating his attendance record at Commission meetings. He suggested that this may be the case with all the commissioners on the website and requested that Mr. Staniforth look into this. Mr. Staniforth replied that he wasn't certain, but perhaps the information from the minutes was generating this information. He stated that he would look into it. Chairman Philibosian commented that the attendance log was an integral part of the public record of Commission meetings.

Mr. Staniforth reminded the commissioners that he was still in need of an assistant, and should be contacted if anyone knew of a qualified candidate for the 90-day non-renewable position. He pointed out that since he is a contract employee he is not able to have a county employee report to him.

VIII. LIAISON REPORTS

Independent Citizens Oversight Committee

Mr. Staniforth stated that there was nothing to report to the Commission at this time. Chairman Philibosian commented that Mr. Staniforth is sitting in for him on this Committee, which is overseeing expenditures in the Fire Department. He acknowledged his appreciation of Mr. Staniforth's time and effort.

Local Government Services Commission

Chairman Philibosian informed the Commission that because Commissioner Selditz was not able to attend this meeting that there will not be a report.

Quality and Productivity Commission

Commissioner Hill announced that the Commissioners' Conference is to be held on either the 26th or 27th of May this year. She noted that last year's Conference was outstanding, and invited all of the commissioners to attend. The purpose of the Conference is to communicate, educate and advocate for the County. In addition, it provides commissioners with the latest information on the County. David Jansen will be making a presentation, along with a number of department heads. Chairman Philibosian asked Commissioner Hill if this Conference was open to all county commissioners. She responded that it is normally for the chairs of each commission, but that this Conference is open county-wide. The Conference will be an excellent opportunity to network with other commissioners. Commissioner Hill stated that she will provide the commissioners with further details when they become available.

Commissioner Hill pointed out that the Productivity Investment funding cycle had come to an end, and stated that she would provide the results at the next meeting. The Productivity Investment Fund serves as an alternate funding resource for creative and innovative projects. Departments have continued to recognize the value of this fund.

Commissioner Hill, in response to Chairman Philibosian's praise of the quality of their newsletter, stated that the ability to enrich staff is their greatest resource. She further explained that offering on-going training and having capable people in the office are assets to both the Commission and the County.

IX. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS

Emancipation Services Task Force

Commissioner Thompson was not present, thus no report was given. Chairman Philibosian commented that most of the work of this task force has been completed, although newspaper articles about the Department of Children and Family Services continue to point out problems in the Department.

Grand Jury

Commissioner Hill announced that the task force desired to address the 3 recommendations concerning the Coroner that came out of 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report. Commissioner Thierer described the Grand Jury intent to address the Coroner's inability to handle large-scale fatalities, particularly in the event of a bio-terrorist or radioactive attack. The Coroner's Office lacks the personnel and protective equipment necessary. The recommendations are as follows:

1. For the County to support the Coroner's efforts to obtain the funds from the federal government to purchase approximately a half million dollars worth of necessary equipment
2. For the Coroner to identify and set up criteria for the provision of temporary refrigerated transport and storage facilities in the event of an attack.
3. Immediate transfer of all data from the Coroner's Office to back-up storage off-site

Commissioner Hill stated that she anticipates the task force's role will be to follow up on these recommendations and to open a dialogue with the Coroner's Office.

Organization & Accountability Task Force

Chairman Philibosian noted that Commissioner Oakes is absent and asked if Mr. Staniforth would like to comment in his place. Mr. Staniforth reported that they were now working on the second draft of the Workers' Compensation Report.

Economic Development Task Force

Chairman Philibosian congratulated Commissioner Sylva on her new association with the law firm Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith. Commissioner Sylva noted that one area that the Task Force will be looking into is the promotion of economic development with the contract cities of Los Angeles County. This will be their focus for the near future.

Sheriff's Transportation Task Force

Commissioner Anderson noted that an interview with Judge Mills regarding the Sheriff Transportation Project and court security is scheduled for 1:30 today. He also commented that the response from the Public Defender has been generally supportive of the project.

Asset Management

Commissioner Hill commented that the task force had an outstanding meeting. She thanked the Chair for allowing Mr. Staniforth to staff the Commission, and was pleased to announce the appointment of David Farrar as the Chair of the Real Estate Task Force. Their next action will be dealing with the issue of surplus property. Commissioner Hill stated that she would be happy to put onto the agenda Chairman Philibosian's concern regarding the partial vacancy of some

governmental buildings. As per Commissioner Ikejiri's request, she will also look into obtaining a list of properties within the county that are encumbered with liens.

Commissioner Thierer wanted to know if the Commission had discussed the old Hall of Justice. Commissioner Hill responded that they had, but that no decisions have been made.

X. PRESENTATION (a)

Chairman Philibosian introduced Ms. Julia Justus McGinity and welcomed her to the Commission meeting.

Ms. Julia Justus McGinity
Senior Assistant to the Governor of California
Topic: The Governor's Plans and Future Direction for the State of California

Ms. McGinity's presentation focused on the Governor's plans to use the California Performance Review and the results of the recent election as tools to address the structural and financial problems currently facing the State of California.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. One member of the public addressed the Commission regarding the closure of Martin Luther King. Chairman Philibosian thanked her for her comment and stated that this issue was not within the scope of the Commission.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor, Chairman Philibosian adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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