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

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

THURSDAY, October 5, 2006  
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.*

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hill called the meeting as a Committee of the Whole to order at 10:15 a.m.

#### **V. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Hill asked those present to introduce themselves.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hill announced that there is an opening as liaison to the Local Government Services Commission which meets once a month. Chair Hill stated that she had attended the Ethics Training Workshop and will have the Executive Director distribute the presentation by County Council which is under a mandate to train all compensated Commissioner's by January 2007. Commissioners Parks and Petak asked that a copy of the Ethics Presentation be sent to each commissioner.

Chair Hill addressed the absence of Former Commissioner Julia Sylva and the possible presentation of her scroll at November's meeting. Additionally, Brown Act Practices are changing so the Chair advised all commissioners to review all pertinent materials in order to maintain compliance. She then advised the Commission that Commissioner Fuhrman was attending by way of teleconference.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

With the presence of a quorum Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

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

Chair Hill asked for a motion to approve absences.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Clayton Anderson  
Hope J. Boonshaft  
Robert Cole  
Jonathan S. Fuhrman  
Jaclyn Tilley Hill  
Ronald K. Ikejiri  
Chun Lee  
Royal F. Oakes  
Roman Padilla  
Charles Parks  
William J. Petak  
Robert H. Philibosian  
Solon C. Soteras

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

Fred P. Balderrama  
Joanne Baltierrez  
Isaac Diaz Barcelona  
Tony Tortorice

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

None

It was Moved, Seconded and Adopted: The members requesting and excuse are excused.

### **III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2006 MINUTES**

Chair Hill asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the September 7, 2006 Commission meeting. The following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the September 7, 2006 Commission meeting be approved as corrected.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2006 PRESENTATION**

Chair Hill asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation of the September 7, 2006 Commission meeting. Being none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The presentation of the September 7, 2006 Commission meeting be approved.

### **VII. PRESENTATION (a)**

Mr. Jack Kyser  
Chief Economist, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC)  
Topic: The Economy of Los Angeles County

Mr. Jack Kyser opened with a general discussion of the economic growth. The discussion included factors which attributed to the slow down of economic growth. Through his report Mr. Kyser went on to discuss the pros and cons and the performance of key industry sectors most prevalent to Los Angeles County. After his report, Mr. Kyser took questions, and then closed by thanking the Commission for the opportunity to make a presentation.

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

#### **Child Care Fraud Task Force**

Chair Emeritus Philibosian made introductory remarks for the Commission action on the report of the Task Force on Child Care Welfare Fraud. The Board of Supervisors requested this report to make recommendations on those immediate actions that can be taken by the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) or other county departments, to cost effectively prevent fraud while ensuring the eligibility of those individuals who are in need of assistance. Describing the procedure for the meeting Chair Emeritus Philibosian will discuss the report upon a motion and a second, consideration of public comment, and a Commission vote on the motion. Chair Emeritus Philibosian referred commissioners to the transmittal letter for a summary of the Commission's actions.

Upon a motion and several seconds to accept the report of the task force, Commissioner Fuhrman stated he will submit editorial revisions and expressed concerns about the Commission's recommendations. He suggested that some

recommendations appear inaccurate or contradicted by facts specifically citing recommendation 26 concerning the requirement for personal appearance of applicants. Commissioner Ikejiri pointed out that on page 6 of the report stated that some of the recommendations made are being done already. Commissioner Ikejiri disagreed with Commissioner Fuhrman's assessment stating that everyone is trying to do what is right for Los Angeles County. The attempt here is to try to bring guidance and integrity into the program, not to assign blame. He feels that DPSS was given sufficient time to review the document and make comments. Commissioner Soteras asked if anyone had received the report prior to the Commission receiving it on October 4th. Chair Emeritus Philibosian asked this question of the DPSS representative, Ms. Lisa Nunez. Ms. Nunez replied that the Commission Chair had received it on October 3rd. Commissioner Soteras stated that there was not sufficient time to review the DPSS submission.

Commissioner Fuhrman replying to Commissioner Ikejiri agreed that it was unfortunate to have received this response so late, but he felt that it is important to consider their comments. He cited recommendation #3 and stated that overpayments can be collected. He also objected to the tone and implication of the report. Commissioner Ikejiri replied that recommendation #3, as with the other recommendations; make suggestions on how to improve the program. Commissioner Padilla stated agreement with Commissioner Fuhrman. Chair Emeritus Philibosian replying to a comment that the recommendations did not get to DPSS executive management stated that this is an internal responsibility of the department. Chair Emeritus Philibosian said that these comments are a part of the record of the Commission and that it is the prerogative of DPSS to send them to the Board if they feel the necessity.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Lisa Nunez, Chief Deputy DPSS, commented that actions, although noted on page 6 as being taken, is not sufficiently addressed in the other section of the report. Accountability is important to DPSS with performance measures being in place and divisions being rated against them. The actions of two task forces have resulted in the creation of a Program Compliance Division to look at program integrity. She feels that the hiring practices of the APPs are sufficient to meet program requirements. Fraud is publicized with the internet and hotlines. This hotline is managed by an outside contractor. DPSS has client responsibility forms, and will add the bold statement on fraud at the bottom of the form. A provider and a client currently sign under legal penalties. DPSS is currently fingerprinting and photographing its clients. A welfare fraud data collection system is being put into place. Ms. Nunez noted that she, with the assistance of staff, had written the reply. DPSS currently has a home visitation visit program and agrees with the recommendation on site visits.

Commissioner Schneiderman, DPSS Commission, questioned the statements made in the current Grand Jury Report and the press accounts. He felt that the lack of an objective measure precludes the Commission from making any recommendations concerning the operations of the DPSS. Additionally, he felt that the objectives of the Board direction were not met since the report did not address any cost for implementing the recommendations. The report also did not address the issue of serving those eligible individuals that have not applied for benefits.

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

##### **Child Care Fraud Task Force**

Commissioner Ikejiri stated that the dignity of this process is paramount. The Commission wants to help DPSS accomplish its mission. Commissioner Fuhrman moved a substitute motion to refer the report back to the task force for further consideration. The motion failed. On the original motion to approve the task force report, the motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The Task Force Report on Child Care Welfare Fraud is approved. Commissioner Soteras moved the following resolution was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: To thank the Task Force, the Task Force Chair and the Executive Director for the work done on this report.

At this point Commissioner Fuhrman requested information on the process for submitting a minority report. Chair Emeritus Philibosian suggested that he write it and submit it to the Executive Director.

#### **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT (Continued)**

Chair Hill requested that the Executive Director place on the agenda for November the issue of amending the By-laws to address teleconferencing for Commission meetings. Additionally, she requested the inclusion on the November agenda of a discussion on the holiday luncheon to be held in December.

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

##### **Child Care Fraud Task Force**

Commissioner Petak asked if it would be appropriate to send a cover memo addressing the sensitivity of this issue. Chair Emeritus Philibosian responded that these are appropriate concerns. He again stated that he expected DPSS to

forward their concerns to the Board on their own. Chair Hill expressed concerns over receiving information late in the process. Commissioner Petak wanted it noted that these actions were taken in the open and after hearing the concerns of the DPSS. Chair Emeritus Philibosian noted that the Commission minutes will reflect the open process. Chair Hill also noted that the cover letter that goes with the report will reflect some of these concerns. Commissioner Padilla recognized the concerns of both the DPSS and the DPSS Commission.

#### **V. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)**

Mr. Staniforth introduced his new assistant Kevin Telesford. Mr. Telesford made a short presentation on his background and experience.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hill adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth  
Executive Director

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