
Economy & Efficiency Commission

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, September 7, 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

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Hill asked those present to introduce themselves. She announced that the County will hold a Brown Act Workshop and an Ethics Training Workshop for compensated commissioners on September 21, 2006. Chair Hill encouraged commissioners to attend, but noted that the workshops are not mandatory because the commissioners do not receive stipends. Chair Hill then congratulated Commissioner Isaac Diaz Barcelona for being reappointed to the Commission on August 1, 2006. She also informed the Commission that an expanded 2006 Synopsis of Publications is available both in print and on the Commission website.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hill directed commissioners to read the information on the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC) and the proposal for a Retired Peace Officer Corps (RPOC), both of which are included in the agenda packets. She then asked Mr. Staniforth to briefly explain the concepts behind both the ICOC and RPOC. Mr. Staniforth replied that ICOC is an independent citizens' oversight committee that reviews fire district tax rate schedules that was established by the Board of Supervisors to evaluate Fire Department recommendations. Concerning the RPOC Mr. Staniforth explained that in the event of a disaster, RPOC will mobilize retired peace officers to assume administrative duties of active-duty officers. These active duty officers can then work out in the field to manage the disaster. Chair Hill commended Commissioner Parks for his initiative in proposing RPOC to the Board, and then asked what factors motivated his proposal. Commissioner Parks replied that being retired from the Long Beach Police Department he has been entertaining the idea of a Retired Peace Officers Corps for some time. Commissioner Parks then commended Mr. Staniforth for his work and for coordinating with the Sheriffs Department to make this proposal happen. Chair Hill requested that there be a follow-up on the Retired Peace Officer Corps in January 2007 with a progress report on the Sheriffs' response to the proposal.

Commissioner Fuhrman addressed the Commission and recommended that the Child Care Fraud Task Force consult with the Commission for Public Social Services to supplement the forthcoming Economy & Efficiency report on child care fraud. Commissioner Fuhrman then reiterated his "intense discomfort" with the Grand Jury's welfare fraud report, which he feels does not engage the complexity of the issue, and is thus a poor foundation for additional work. Chair Hill then asked Mr. Staniforth whether the Child Care Fraud Task Force had invited the Commission for Public Social Services to review its study. Mr. Staniforth replied that Chair Emeritus Philibosian, Chair of the Task Force, would be the one to consider this recommendation.

III. APPROVAL OF JULY 6, 2006 MINUTES

Chair Hill asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the July 6, 2006 Commission meeting. Commissioner Fuhrman noted that the Commission voted to support SB 1421. He then pointed out that the Board of Supervisors passed a regulation prohibiting commissions from independently supporting legislation. Commissioner Fuhrman explained that the regulation requires County advisory commissions to recommend their support of a piece of legislation to the Board, who would then consult with a legislative advocate to determine their official position. Chair Hill asked Mr. Staniforth whether any action was taken on SB 1421. Mr. Staniforth informed her that the bill did not get out of committee. Chair Hill then specified that the minutes show she did not meet with Gloria Gomez face-to-face, but instead that they corresponded via email and telephone. The following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the July 6, 2006 Commission meeting be approved as corrected.

IV. APPROVAL OF JULY 6, 2006 PRESENTATION

Chair Hill asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation of the July 6, 2006 Commission meeting. Being none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The presentation of the July 6, 2006 Commission meeting be approved.

VII. PRESENTATION (a)

Dr. David Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer, Los Angeles County
Topic: The Los Angeles County Budget

Dr. Janssen opened with a general discussion of the State of the County. He then discussed how locally-generated revenue retained under the Local Government Protection Act (Prop A-1) has improved the County's financial situation. Dr. Janssen went on to discuss other budgetary issues, including the role of the real estate market in the County budget, rising costs of In-Home Health Services (IHSS), mandated and discretionary programs, unfunded liability for retiree healthcare, and the future of healthcare in Los Angeles County.

After his report, Dr. Janssen 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 introduced the Honorable Steve Cooley, Los Angeles County District Attorney, as part of his task force presentation.

The Honorable Steve Cooley
District Attorney
Los Angeles County
Topic: Child Care Fraud in Los Angeles County

Mr. Cooley began his presentation by distributing a letter from Mr. Frank G. De Balogh, Chair of the Commission for Public Social Services. Mr. De Balogh's letter criticizes the Grand Jury's most recent report on welfare fraud. Mr. Cooley then explained his response to this letter, his view on the Grand Jury report, and what steps he feels should be taken to expose, deter, and punish child care fraud. Mr. Cooley mentioned that his office is prosecuting seven child care fraud cases with a combined total of \$2.3 million defrauded. Mr. Cooley went on to discuss Board involvement in efforts to detect and deter child care fraud, as well as known techniques perpetrators use to defraud the system. Mr. Cooley closed by suggesting that the steps taken to reduce child care fraud might serve as a model for addressing very similar forms of fraud in In-Home Health Services (IHSS). Mr. Jim Cospers, Head Deputy of the Welfare Fraud Division of the District Attorney of Los Angeles, then explained how the Grand Jury derived the figures for its report on welfare fraud.

After his presentation, Mr. Cooley took questions, and closed by thanking the Commission for an opportunity to make a presentation.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

Chair Hill asked for a motion to approve absences.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Robert Cole
Jonathan S. Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Chun Lee
Charles Parks
William J. Petak
Robert H. Philibosian
Solon C. Soteras
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Fred P. Balderrama
Joanne Baltierrez
Hope J. Boonshaft
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Royal F. Oakes
Roman Padilla

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

None

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

VIII. OLD BUSINESS - TASK FORCE REPORTS (Continued)

Child Care Fraud Task Force

Chair Emeritus Philibosian said the Child Care Fraud Task Force will contact the Commission for Public Social Services. Commissioner Petak recalled Commissioner Fuhrman's comment that the Grand Jury report on welfare fraud was not substantial, to which Chair Emeritus Philibosian replied that the Task Force will rely on the research it conducts with all the agencies involved. Chair Emeritus Philibosian said the report will be operations-oriented, unlike Grand Jury reports, which tend to focus on larger social issues.

Succession Planning

Commissioner Petak told Mr. Janssen that the Commission was asked to draw up a succession planning study for the Board. Commissioner Petak then asked Mr. Janssen whether the County is doing anything proactive in terms of succession planning. Mr. Janssen replied that the County does a small degree of succession planning, but is not willing to disclose which employees it grooms for executive positions. In addition, the County's Academy programs target, educate, and train managers. Mr. Janssen noted that the Department of Human Resources also surveys middle management skills and tracks County employees.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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