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Economy & Efficiency Commission

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, October 4, 2007
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 of commissioners, Chairman Ikejiri called the Commission meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Fred P. Balderrama
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Robert Cole
Jonathan S. Fuhrman
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Chun Lee
William Max
Roman Padilla
William Petak
Robert H. Philibosian
Solon C. Soteras
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Joanne Baltierrez
Royal F. Oakes

Freda Hinsche Otto

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

Hope Boonschaft

Chairman Ikejiri asked for a motion to approve absences. It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The Commission members requesting an excuse are excused.

III. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2007 MINUTES

Chairman Ikejiri asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the September 6, 2007 Commission meeting. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the September 6, 2007 Commission meeting are approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2007 PRESENTATION

Chairman Ikejiri asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the presentation of the September 6, 2007 Commission meeting. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The presentation of the September 6, 2007 Commission meeting is approved.

V. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Three members of the 2006-2007 Civil Grand Jury introduced themselves: Robert Sax (foreperson), Linda Winfield and Joe Contreras.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Ikejiri indicated the speakers for November and December are on hold right now. Mr. Don Wolfe, Director of Public Works, the planned speaker for December, may have a conflict on the Commission's December meeting day. Chairman Ikejiri discussed a presentation he recently heard on gangs and gang intervention. It was presented by Mr. William McBride who has retired from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Chairman Ikejiri said the presentation was chilling and very informative. It is surprising how many dollars are committed to the gang problem. He suggested hearing this presentation at the November Commission meeting and said he would inquire as to Mr. McBride's availability.

Chairman Ikejiri said the holiday luncheon, scheduled to be held after the December 6th Commission meeting, will begin at 12:00 pm.

VII. LIASON REPORTS

Local Government Service Commission (LGSC)

Commissioner Fuhrman said he was out of town for the commission meeting, and the Executive Director had attended on his behalf. He said the LGSC has been tasked by the Board to look at transportation-for-hire countywide. Since there are a number of government agencies involved in regulating this activity, the LGSC will establish a task force to investigate the effectiveness and efficiency in this area.

Quality and Productivity Commission (Q&P)

Commissioner Anderson indicated that this commission had Mr. Mark Pisano of the California Association of Governments speak to them on emerging and projected demographics. Commissioner Anderson said that Mr. Pisano's presentation was very informative and suggested that he speak to the E&E Commission.

Commissioner Anderson made note that the Q&P Commission has a new chairperson, Mr. Al Leiga, from Claremont. He also noted that the Q&P Commission has an award luncheon coming up and suggested that any commissioner who is interested in attending can call the Q&P) Office to make a reservation.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Succession Planning

Commissioner Petak indicated there has been no action by anyone on this item, including the E&E Commission. Since

the Commission turned in the report it is necessary to determine if we should initiate some sort of action to resolve this issue. Since this report had been requested by Supervisor Knabe Chair-Emeritus Philibosian suggested that he and Commissioner Petak get in touch with the appropriate person in the supervisor's office to determine the most appropriate course of action. Chairman Ikejiri added that he felt it was important to address this issue.

VII. LIASON REPORTS (Continued)

Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee Liaison (CCJCC)

Chair-Emeritus Philibosian said he was not able to attend the CCJCC meeting. He asked the Executive Director if anything of note was considered that would be of interest to the E&E Commission. No items focusing on the Commission were considered.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Grand Jury

Commissioner Max stated that the PIF request had been submitted to the Quality & Productivity Commission. Hopefully, it will be approved and that the project can proceed. Chairman Ikejiri asked who makes the final decision on a PIF grant. Commissioner Anderson responded that it is the full Q&P Commission. Chairman Ikejiri added that the presentation was done very well and that it makes a compelling case for having that particular video made. He feels it will have a significant impact on the number of people that want to participate in the grand jury process.

Child Care Welfare Fraud

Chair-Emeritus Philibosian reported that the task force had received a response on the recommendation status from DPSS and is now working on a reply. At the commission's request, Mr. Staniforth is arranging a workshop meeting for the director of DPSS and a representative from the DA's office, so there can be a dialogue on the issues that have been raised. Chairman Ikejiri added that he thinks the workshop is a good approach for working together to find solutions.

Non-Interference

Commissioner Fuhrman indicated that following Mr. Fujioka's comments to the Commission, that it was too soon for us to come back and look at how things are working out, this task force has not done anything, but that now it's probably about time we reorganize and begin addressing the issue.

Chairman Ikejiri stated that he had met with Supervisor Antonovich on this issue. He wanted to make certain where concerns may or may not be as it relates to non-interference. It is not the intent to undermine the responsibilities and duties of elected officials, but at the same time it is necessary to allow the new CEO position to develop. This will evolve over time as the new CEO develops a level of trust with the different staffs and supervisors. This kind of personal equity, as it develops over time, complicates the succession planning process.

Commission Staff Task Force

Executive Director Staniforth stated that he had nothing additional to report.

Organization an Accountability

Commissioner Oakes was not present so no report was made.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Ikejiri asked if there were any new business. He added that at the November meeting he would like to have the Commission discuss possible projects for the upcoming year.

Chairman Ikejiri requested at the last meeting that the commissioners from each supervisorial district designate one of their number to be a member of the Nominating Committee. He again made that request.

Commissioner Petak inquired about the timeline for the election of a new chairperson. Mr. Staniforth responded that the commissioners from each supervisorial district select their representative in November and report that selection at the December meeting. The Chair then appoints them to the Nominating Committee. Sometime between the December and January meetings, they meet to make their recommendation to the full Commission in January. They select one of the Nominating Committee to report their actions at the January meeting. Mr. Staniforth added that an eligible candidate can also be nominated from the floor at the January meeting. The election is then held during the January meeting.

This was followed by some discussion among the commission members, deciding on their corresponding supervisorial representative. The following were designated:

1. 1st District – Commissioner Padilla
2. 2nd District – Commissioner Lee
3. 3rd District – To be determined (no commissioners were present)
4. 4th District – Commissioner Petak
5. 5th District – Commissioner Barcelona

IX. PRESENTATION

Chairman Ikejiri introduced William Fujioka, and welcomed him to the meeting.

The Honorable Steve Cooley, District Attorney
Los Angeles County

Mr. Cooley began his presentation discussing the work of his office worked to expose and address a major international injustice, that of individuals committing felons in the United States and then fleeing to Mexico; they are now working cooperatively with Mexican authorities to return such individuals. He discussed their current centerpiece of forensics sciences activity, a regional crime lab operated out of California State University – Los Angeles; part of that effort feeds important information into a statewide DNA database, which then also becomes available nationwide. Mr. Cooley indicated that the murder rate in the county has seen spikes of 2,500 annually during the last 30 years, but is currently much lower at around 900, as low as it was in 1970; he attributed this partly to California having the highest incarceration rate in its history. He identified inadequate bed space in the Los Angeles County Jail System as the current weakness in the criminal justice system, indicating this is due to a statewide infrastructure problem and aggravated by the fact that 28% of the county's incarcerated population are illegal aliens.

Among other topics Mr. Cooley also noted the increased responsiveness and aggressive actions within the Public Integrity Division and the recently initiated program where two deputy DAs have also been designated as assistant US attorneys dedicated exclusively to prosecuting known gang members that are in the country illegally.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. No members of the public commented.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion from the floor Chairman Ikejiri adjourning the meeting at 11:32 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:EEmail_eecomm@co.la.ca.us)
WEB eec.co.la.ca.us