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Economy & Efficiency Commission Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, February 1, 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 Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 10:05 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
Hope J. Boonshaft
Jonathan S. Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Chun Lee
William Max
Roman Padilla
William J. Petak
Robert H. Philibosian
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Royal F. Oakes
Solon C. Soteras

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

Joanne Baltierrez
Robert Cole

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 JANUARY 4, 2007 MINUTES

Chairman Ikejiri asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the January 4, 2007 Commission meeting. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the January 4, 2007 Commission meeting are approved.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Staniforth, Executive Director of the EEC Commission, introduced his new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Laurie Lustica. Ms. Lustica introduced herself to the Commission. Both Mr. Otha R. Scott and Dr. Robert Sax, current members of the Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury, were introduced.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Ikejiri presented Commissioner Hill, the outgoing Chair, with her nameplate and gavel set, thanking her for her year-long service to the Commission. He also announced that a scroll would be presented to her at an upcoming Commission meeting.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Staniforth called the Commission's attention to the Commissioner Information Update Sheets that had been distributed, and asked that the commissioners review, revise and return them at their earliest convenience. Mr. Staniforth also announced that EEC meeting minutes going back to the Commission's inception in 1964, were now part of the permanent archive on the EEC website.

Lastly, Mr. Staniforth reported that an application for a National Association of Counties (NACO) award had been submitted for the Commission's proposal for the creation of the Retired Peace Officer Corp (RPOC). Commissioner Fuhrman asked about the status of the RPOC. Mr. Staniforth reported that the proposal was sent on to Sheriff by the Board and is implementing the program.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Continued)

Chairman Ikejiri took a moment to publicly announce the appointment of Commissioner Isaac Barcelona to the position of Vice Chairman of the Commission, and noted that it was one of the first such appointments from the Fifth District. Vice Chairman Barcelona thanked the Chairman, and stated that it was an honor to be appointed to this position.

VII. LIASON REPORTS

Local Government Service Commission (LGSC)

Chairman Ikejiri reported that the primary order of business at the LGSC's next meeting will be to discuss a Service Report outlining the proposed establishment of a County-wide system to regulate the rates and services of taxi cabs.

Quality and Productivity Commission (Q&P)

Commissioner Hill reported that the Q&P Commission is in the midst of planning its leadership retreat and also its annual awards event in October. Commissioner Petak asked Commissioner Hill to elaborate on the Quality and Productivity Commission's upcoming awards event.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Succession Planning

Commissioner Petak reported that the Succession Planning Task Force has not received feedback from the Board since submitting the report requested by Supervisor Don Knabe. He also noted that it is clear the Board is focused on finding a successor to the County's Chief Administrative Officer.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Continued)

Chairman Ikejiri referred to a recent letter he had sent to the Commissioners outlining his goals for the EEC in 2007, as delineated by a 3-track strategy as follows:

- Track 1: Continuing to pursue projects that support the work of the Board of Supervisors.
- Track 2: Relying on each Commissioner to ascertain the policy goals of their appointing Supervisor.
- Track 3: Providing each Commissioner with the opportunities to have a greater understanding of the competing interests and consideration that are part of the inherent governance responsibility of County government.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

Child Care Fraud

Chairman Emeritus Philibosian reported that he had called the District Attorney's office the previous day and was told that they would continue to check with their Welfare Fraud unit to see what kind of cooperation they are getting from DPSS, in light of the EEC's recommendations. He also reported that he had asked Supervisor Knabe to take a look at whether the recommendations are being implemented by DPSS.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Adoption of Commission Member Goals and Objectives for 2007

Chairman Ikejiri asked that commissioners review the Commission's Mission Statement and look for areas on which they would like to focus.

Discussion and adoption of Commission Goals and Objectives for 2007

Chairman Ikejiri then asked the Commissioners to take a few minutes each to speak about their ideas of what should be taken into consideration in drafting the Commission's Goals for 2007. Vice Chairman Barcelona emphasized that communication with the appointing Supervisors and between the commissioners would be valuable to the Commission's projects in the coming year. Commissioner Anderson offered a suggestion that commissioners meet as a group with their appointing Supervisors in order to minimize the amount meeting requests. He also suggested the EEC field trips focus on smaller learning institutions, where the scale would be more conducive to getting an overall view of the operations.

IX. PRESENTATION

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Chairman, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
3rd District Supervisor
Los Angeles County
Topic: The Goals for Los Angeles County in 2007

Supervisor Yaroslavsky began his remarks with a quick summary of the recent events surrounding the search for a new Chief Administrative Officer for the County, and outlined the modifications in search parameters that he would like to see implemented. Much of the remainder of his presentation focused on his belief in the need for a Chief Executive Officer in Los Angeles County, and how such a position could streamline the management of the current challenges and opportunities facing the County. He noted that the County is in the business of providing human services, where efficiency can be a matter of life and death.

Discussion of Presentation

Chairman Ikejiri remarked that the presentation by Supervisor Yaroslavsky was both interesting and candid and he looked forward to having him back for a lengthier discussion, as the Supervisor had suggested. Commissioner Padilla then brought up the matter of funding for future Commission projects and Chairman Ikejiri suggested that any such requests should be tied to specific project needs. Commissioner Fuhrman suggested that succession planning, which is of immediate concern to the County, might be enhanced by measures aimed at training and organizational development.

X. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Discussion and Adoption of Commission Member Goals and Objectives for 2007 (Continued)

Chairman Ikejiri then asked the Commissioners to continue presenting their ideas for what the focus of the

Commissioner's work should be in the coming year. Commissioner Lee turned his attention to field trips, and specifically to past visits to County Jails, Juvenile Hall, and hospitals where many more commissioners signed up than actually attended.

Commissioner Fuhrman stated his approval of renewing the practice of field trips, but suggested that they as well as the presentations scheduled for Commission meetings be directly tied to work that has or will be done by the Commission. Commissioner Padilla suggested that in the future, field trips be combined with the monthly Commission meetings in order to maximize participation. Regarding the securing of a funding stream for Commission projects, he proposed that a work plan with proposed budgets be sent to the Board either bi-annually or annually. He also offered the idea that Commission white papers could sometimes be substituted for lengthier reports in order to increase the Commission's output and influence upon governmental policy and processes.

Commissioner Balderrama expressed his enthusiasm for a wide range of field trips to be undertaken by the Commission. When asked by the Chairman, Commissioner Tortorice outlined his work as Chief Information Officer for the Los Angeles Community College District, and offered to assist the Commission in areas related to information technology.

Commissioner Petak suggested that the Commission ask David Janssen to participate in an informal discussion after he exits the CAO position. He stated that ascertaining his recommendations as to the County governance structure would be very useful to the Commission's work. He also suggested that an instructional program be established to allow Commissioners to acquire a fuller understanding of their roles in the areas of oversight and governance assistance. Commissioner Padilla interjected that one of the chief aims of the Commission should be to provide useful information to the CAO, who, with or without an expansion of powers, is still central to the decision-making process of the Board.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

Grand Jury Task Force

Commissioner Max reported that in line with its goal of assisting the Grand Jury in being more efficient and effective, the Task Force will set a meeting with the Supervising Judge, Steven Van Sicklen, to discuss his ideas. A discussion then followed between Commissioners Tortorice, Max, Philibosian and Fuhrman and Dr. Robert Sax, the current Grand Jury Foreman, as to how to maximize the impact of Grand Jury recommendations.

In the interest of time, Commissioner Ikejiri suggested that this discussion be continued as part of the work of the Grand Jury Task Force and concluded the meeting by expressing his appreciation for the liveliness of the discourse and the high level of engagement from all of the Commissioners. He noted that the remaining New Business agenda items would be continued to the next meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ikejiri adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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