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Economy & Efficiency Commission

Meeting Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION

THURSDAY, May 3, 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 Chairmaan Ikejiri called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

VIII. PRESENTATION

Chairman Ikejiri introduced David Janssen, and welcomed him to the meeting.

David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Los Angeles County

Topic: New Governance of the County

Mr. Janssen used his visit to the Commission to outline the draft plan for the creation of chief executive officer and deputy chief executive officer positions for Los Angeles County, and the formation of clusters of departments based on the programmatic goals of the County's strategic plan. His presentation addressed the internal mechanisms that were designed by task forces charged with maximizing the benefits of the new system, while protecting the ability of individual supervisors to have hands-on involvement in managing the short and long-term needs of their districts. Questions of Mr. Janssen focused on issues such as the supervisors' involvement in the clusters, the concerns of some of the town councils in the unincorporated areas, and the connection between responsibility and accountability with regard to the new roles of the CEO and the supervisors, both real and as perceived by constituents and the press.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Clayton Anderson
Joanne Baltierrez

Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Jonathan S. Fuhrman
Jaclyn Tilley Hill
Ronald K. Ikejiri
William Max
Roman Padilla
Robert H. Philibosian
Solon C. Soteras
Tony Tortorice

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Chun Lee
Royal F. Oakes
William Petak

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING AN EXCUSE

Fred P. Balderrama
Hope Boonshaft
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 APRIL 5, 2007 MINUTES

Chairman Ikejiri asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the April 5, 2007 Commission meeting. Hearing none, the following motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: The minutes of the April 5, 2007 Commission meeting are approved.

IV. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Ikejiri asked Joe Contreras and Walter Lappo, visitors from the Civil Grand Jury, to introduce themselves. Also in attendance were Bryce Yokomizo and Lari Sheehan, both of the CAO's office and Ruth Wong, Executive Director of the Quality and Productivity Commission.

VI. LIASON REPORTS

Local Government Service Commission (LGSC)

Chairman Ikejiri reported that the LGSC cancelled its May meeting, possibly due to the fact that the regional taxi fare undertaking has been put on hold.

Quality and Productivity Commission (Q&P)

Commissioner Hill gave the commissioners another reminder about the Q&P Commission's upcoming Commissioner Leadership Conference, on May 23rd. She also offered to provide copies of the Q&P Commission's annual report, to any commissioner who had not yet received one.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Grand Jury Task Force

Commissioner Max reported that the task force was continuing with its search for a university or some other organization willing to take on the production of a recruitment video for the Grand Jury, at minimal cost.

Organization an Accountability Task Force

No report, due to absence of the task force chair.

Succession Planning

No report, due to absence of the chairman of the Task Force.

Child Care Welfare Fraud Task Force

Chair Emeritus Philibosian said he expected that by the next Commission meeting, he would have an update from the District Attorney's Office, regarding the level of cooperation they've received from the Department of Families and Children's Services. Cooperation between the two entities was a central recommendation of the Commission's report on Child Care Welfare Fraud, he noted.

Non-Interference Task Force

Commissioner Fuhrman reported that the task force had held a conference call with all members present and agreed to proceed by ascertaining how other California governmental entities (cities and counties) have, or have not, incorporated the issue of non-interference into their governance structure. Commissioner Fuhrman also mentioned that he will write up and distribute to task force members, a summary of his recent meeting with Bryce Yokomizo, of the CAO's Office. This meeting featured an in-depth discussion of how the non-interference clause will affect the disposition of constituent case work as it moves through the system. Also discussed was how the contracting and RFP processes might be affected by the insertion of deputy CEO into the equation. Finally, Commissioner Fuhrman noted that task force members will be receiving a copy of the transition report provided by Supervisor Molina's Office.

Commissioner Padilla suggested that all Commission members read a transcript of the Board's discussion on the newly-passed governance ordinance that the executive director had provided to them. He said that it provided useful insight into the perspectives and positions of the individual supervisors on proposed governance changes. He also suggested that County Counsel Ray Fortner and Deputy County Counsel, Leela Kapur be invited to make a presentation at the next E&E Commission meeting.

Commission Staff Task Force

Chairman Ikejiri did not ask for a report from this task force, but noted instead that as outlined in CAO's presentation, the roles and responsibilities of county commissions would be fine-tuned in the process of the government restructuring.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Ikejiri agreed that reading the transcript would be very helpful as a starting point in understanding the Board's thinking on the subject of the new governance structure, but added that subsequent refinements have and will continue to be made since the ordinance was passed. In response to a previous question raised by Commissioner Max, Chairman Ikejiri explained that the drafting of the letter to the Board concerning how the Commission intends on approaching its assignment had been intentionally postponed until the conclusion of today's meeting with the CAO.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hill asked to be able to use part of this time to offer an insider's perspective on why, according to proposed governance changes, the Quality and Productivity Commission may no longer fall under the aegis of the CEO (as had been pointed out by David Janssen during his presentation). She noted the change of focus from that under her former leadership, to one centered totally on tools to increase quality and productivity. It's possible, she concluded, that such a close relationship may no longer be necessary.

Chairman Ikejiri commented that in the E&E Commission's case, maintaining its independence from County departments has increased its value to the board, particularly at this time, when the supervisors are counting on the Commission to produce an independent analysis of the governance restructuring project.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ikejiri adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted.



Bruce J. Staniforth
Executive Director

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