

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

**July 3, 2008**

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 Ronald Ikejiri* called the Commission meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

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

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

*Clayton R. Anderson  
Isaac Diaz Barcelona  
Fred P. Balderrama  
Jonathan S. Fuhrman  
Alan M. Glassman  
Ronald K. Ikejiri  
Bradley H. Mindlin  
Chun Y. Lee  
Freda Hinsche Otto  
Roman Padilla  
Robert H. Philibosian  
Solon C. Soteras  
Robert E. Sax*

**COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED**

*Hope J. Boonshaft  
Robert Cole  
Janice Kamenir-Reznik  
Royal F. Oakes  
William J. Petak  
Tony Tortorice*

**COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED**

None

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

**III. APPROVAL OF JUNE 5, 2008 MINUTES**

*Chairman Ikejiri* asked if there were any objections to the minutes of the **June 5, 2008** Commission meeting. Hearing none, the motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The minutes of the **June 5, 2008** Commission meeting are approved.

#### **IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

1. *Chairman Ikejiri* stated Commissioner Janice Kamenir- Reznik would not be introduced today because she was unable to attend the meeting. She will be formally introduced in the September meeting.
2. The remaining meetings for 2008 would be September 11, October 2, November 6 and December 4<sup>th</sup>. On December 4<sup>th</sup> the Commission will have a holiday luncheon in which everyone is invited to attend. *Chairman Ikejiri* added that the assignment for the Commission's temporary assistant has ended and that the Commission is now considering hiring a permanent County employee. It should be finalized within the next month.
3. There were no Commissioners staff reports.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

1. **New Task Force Proposal - Strategic Planning Project** – *Edward Eng, E.D.* explained that the strategic planning process enables senior executives to look at future direction and make choices on how to proceed. One of his responsibilities when employed at the Los Angeles Times was developing the company's strategic plan, which later forms the foundation for an operating plan. Mr. Eng stated that in light of the new CEO's vision for identifying efficiency initiatives, he wanted to look at how County departments are using strategic planning as a tool to help with planning, identify efficiency initiatives, and engage employees in project initiatives. *Mr. Eng.* Also stated he would like to issue a report comparing the differences and similarities on how County departments use strategic planning as a framework for moving forward with their mission. *Chairman Ikejiri* asked Mr. Eng what he would like the Commission to act on. Mr. Eng replied that he would like to see if there is any interest with the Commission to form a Task Force for this project. Commissioner Sax commented that one of the topics in the Civil Grand Jury report was strategic planning in terms of how to look at County departments as a whole and plan ahead. He also stated that this year's report involved some of the long term goals for social services and health care. *Chairman Ikejiri* appointed Commissioner Glassman the temporary chairperson to work with Mr. Eng to develop a recommendation on whether to pursue this as a project.
2. **New Task Force Proposal – Performance Counts Project** – *Mr. Eng* stated that a key component of the County's strategic plan is a program called Performance Counts. The objective of that program is to keep statistics of all workload activities. The outcome of those measurements is then used to assist in developing the County's budget. But in reality there is no correlation between the two. Mr. Eng stated that another outcome of the program is to spur innovation which also has not happened. *Mr. Eng* requested that the Commission should review the program as an efficiency project to either tweak the program or get rid of it altogether. This would be the second project proposed to form a task force around. *Chairman Ikejiri* stated that the challenge for the County is how to deliver the best services and how to measure if we are doing a superior job. He added that it would be worthwhile for the Commission to consider building a Task Force around this project. He then stated that the Executive Director would send out information and background materials for the Commission to consider in the next meeting. *Chairman Ikejiri* added that if any Commissioners would like to be a task force chair or member of this or any other task forces, to send his or her preference(s) to the Executive Director.

- 3. New Task Force Proposal – Process of Obtaining a Business License** – Mr. Eng stated that the process of obtaining a business license in Los Angeles County is a very cumbersome and complex process that involves several departments. The service delivery process is not very efficient in that there is no timeframe given potential business owners applying for a business license, compounded by the fact that there is no centralized location for obtaining a license. Mr. Eng is proposing this as another efficiency project. *Chairman Ikejiri* stated that this is a good project for the Commission to look at. *Chairman Ikejiri* added that he had some experience in dealing with the business license commission and asked the Commission for comment. Commissioner Fuhrman commented that these are all projects to pursue but is concerned about the bandwidth of the Commission to take on too many projects at once. Commissioner Fuhrman asked the Executive Director how much time and commitment would each project take. The Executive Director responded that the scope of the work has not been fully developed but that it would require time for interviews, review, and discussion on direction. Commissioner Glassman commented that it might be worthwhile to develop a methodology for each of the projects so that the Commission will know the commitment and time requirement needed to serve on the task forces.
- 4. New Task Force Proposal – Fire Department Contract Service with Cities** - Mr. Eng wanted to review the process for how the Fire Department contract with smaller cities. Commissioner Barcelona asked if there is a perception of a problem with the process. Chair Ikejiri responded that there is a pass-through costs to smaller cities that they have to absorb when gasoline prices go up. He feels that there is a need to understand how the whole process works. Commissioner Glassman commented that maybe it's better to do an informal survey with other smaller cities to see if they share the same perception before we pursue this as a project. Chair Ikejiri commented that he will informally talk to other counties at an upcoming conference in San Diego for all counties in which CEO Fujioka will be speaking at.

## **VI. TASK FORCE REPORT**

### **1. Governance - Commissioner Fuhrman, Chair**

*Commissioner Fuhrman* reported that the Governance Report is ready for the Commission's adoption. He stated that the Task Force interviewed 28 senior County executives, and others involved in drafting the new governance structure. Commissioner Fuhrman stated that the Task Force met for upwards of 30 hours over a one month span in order to draft the final report. Commissioner Fuhrman called to the commissioners' attention to recommendation three regarding the need to clarify the role and responsibilities of the Deputy CEOs. The Task Force also suggested keeping the current ordinance, and not bringing this to the people for vote on the charter changes.

*Chairman Ikejiri* asked for a motion to open the report up discussion. *Commissioner Fuhrman* spoke first, adding his appreciation for the involvement of the Task Force, and in his memory, this was one of the most active task forces ever. He also stated that they completed the report without the assistance of any outside consultants using only the Commissioners and the Executive Director, reiterating that the Task Force worked great together and the participation of everyone was the main reason that resulted in an excellent product. *Chairman Ikejiri* asked Commissioner Fuhrman to identify the

members of the Task Force. Commissioner Fuhrman stated the members of his Task Force: *Commissioner Otto, Commissioner Sax, Commissioner Padilla, Commissioner Glassman, Commissioner Anderson, and Commissioners Tortorice and Boonshaft* were also on the task force, but were not able to be active. *Chairman Ikejiri* asked for comments and questions by the members of the Commission. *Commissioner Padilla* stated that he, along with other Commissioners involved, thought Commissioner Fuhrman did an excellent job, keeping everything fair, organizing the interviews and keeping the answers confined within the questions asked. *Commissioner Glassman* commented on the favorable expression by the County's CEO's and several Department heads, in that it was a very balanced report. He also added that the CEO told all of his people to read the report three times as he did. *Chairman Ikejiri* asked if there were any more comments. No additional comments were made. A call for a motion from *Chairman Ikejiri* to approve the report was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The Governance report was approved. Commissioner Mindlin abstained.

## **2. Civil Grand Jury Video – Commissioner Sax, Chair**

*Commissioner Sax* stated that he wasn't present at the last meeting, and thanked the Executive Director for presenting the progress and having it approved. He stated there will be a kickoff meeting on July 15, with the producers along with the Superior Court staff to start implementing and putting the video into production. He also explained that last month it was reported that 5 bidders were received for the Civil Grand Jury Video. All bidders were scored on a standardized objective scale in 5 areas, qualifications, experience, resources, interview/presentation and costs. *Commissioner Padilla* asked if the purpose of the project is to motivate people to join the Civil Grand Jury. *Executive Director* replied yes and that it will be used as a tool for recruitment. They are also working with the Superior Court staff as the internal customer on this project.

## **3. Succession Planning – Commissioner Petak, Chair**

*Chair Ikejiri* stated that he and the Executive Director had a very candid discussion with the CEO about the Governance report. The CEO felt that the report was balanced and credible. On the subject of Succession Planning, the Executive Director stated that last month he reported that *Commissioner Glassman* and he spoke to the cluster DCEO to convey the Task Force findings and talk to personnel from H.R. and they all agreed that the current process is deficient, and that they are going to follow-up with another response addressing the Commission's input within a couple of months. Commissioner Otto asked if there will be a follow up report and how the process would work. Executive Director replied that the Task Force will issue an updated report for the Commission to approve.

## **4. Child Care Fraud – Chair-Emeritus Philibosian, Chair**

*Chair-Emeritus Philibosian* stated that with the Governance project completed, he would like to reconstitute a review of the recommendations by reconvening a meeting with the DA and DPSS staff.

**VII. LIAISON REPORTS**

**1. Local Government Service Commission – Commissioner Fuhrman**

*Commissioner Fuhrman reported that he attended the Local Government Services Commission Taxi Cab task force meeting on July 1, 2008. He stated that the Long Beach Police Department is still reluctant as to the transition of accepting wireless 911 calls; all calls are currently being routed to CHP. Commissioner Fuhrman also reported that they are continuing to work on the Taxi study primarily and filling some vacancies.*

**2. Quality & Productivity Commission – Commissioner Anderson**

Chairman Ikejiri introduced Ruth Wong, the Executive Director of the Quality & Productivity Commission. Ruth Wong commented on the Awards Event that will be held in October 2008. She stated that the Commission is currently soliciting proposals from various Departments. All proposals will then be followed by an evaluation process in which the top winners for each category will be chosen. Commissioner Mindlin asked what are the categories of the Awards. Executive Director Wong responded that there are four categories: Quality Improvement Award; Plain Language Award; County Image Award and; Mega Million Dollar Award. Executive Director stated the awards are given to departments who have exposed projects that exemplified all the core values of the organization and shown significant cost savings or increase in revenue.

**Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee – Chair-Emeritus Philibosian**

*Chair-Emeritus Philibosian reported that the major discussion centered around Proposition 5, which will be on the November ballot. From a broad perspective, Proposition 5 expands the current Drug Offender Treatment Program in terms of eligibility and limits the availability of enforcement actions against offenders. The Committee is recommending to the Board of Supervisors to oppose this Proposition*

**VIII. PRESENTATION**

None

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Fuhrman proposed reviewing the Civil Service structure and how they conduct hearings as a new project for the Commission. Chair Ikejiri stated that we will keep this as another project up for discussion in future meetings.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Ikejiri at 10:47 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Edward Eng, Executive Director*