

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
January 6, 2011**

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 Isaac Barcelona called the Commission meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER'S ABSENCES

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Fred P. Balderrama
Isaac Diaz Barcelona
Jonathan S. Fuhrman
Alan Glassman
Ronald K. Ikejiri
Janice Kamenir-Reznik
Arne Kalm
Chun Y. Lee
Edward T. McIntyre
Adam Murray
William Petak
Robert H. Philibosian

COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Bradley Mindlin
Royal F. Oakes
Freda Hinsche Otto
Roman Padilla
Solon Soteras

COMMISSIONERS NOT REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED

Hope J. Boonshaft
Robert Cole

Chairman Barcelona asked for a motion to approve absences. It was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted: Commissioners requesting excuses to be absent were excused.

III. APPROVAL OF December 2, 2010 MINUTES

Chairman Barcelona asked if there were any objections or changes to the minutes of the December 2010 Commission meeting. The motion was Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The minutes of the December 2010 Commission meetings were approved.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Barcelona introduced the Commissioners to his wife Shawny Barcelona. Chairman Barcelona stated that he is looking forward to a new year and is happy to see all of the Commissioners who are present.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Eng stated that he would like to announce new projects he has in mind for the Commission beginning in 2011 at the end of the meeting under New Business.

Mr. Eng also stated that he that he has invited the new Chair of the Board Supervisors, Mayor Antonovich to speak to the Commission in February or April.

VI. TASK FORCE REPORTS

1. Child Care Fraud – Chair-Emeritus Philibosian, Chair

Chair-Emeritus Philibosian stated that the report will be on hold indefinitely until the Civil Service Study is completed.

2. Civil Service Reform-- Commissioner Otto

Commissioner Fuhrman reported that the Board has asked for the report to be continued until January 11, 2011. Commissioner Fuhrman stated that he will be in attendance along with Chairman Barcelona, Commissioner Reznik, and Executive Director Edward Eng.

Executive Edward Eng stated that he would like to group the report's recommendations into three categories (1) those that are within the County's purview, (2) those that are related to Civil Service Commission, and (3) those that would require Civil Service Rule Changes. Mr. Eng also stated that he spoke with Commissioner Soteras who mentioned that he had lunch with a couple of the Legislative members whom he gave a copy of the report to and they all said it was a job well done.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Local Government Service Commission – Commissioner Fuhrman

Commissioner Fuhrman stated that the next Local Government Service meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

2. Quality & Productivity Commission – Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee stated that at the December 6, 2010 meeting the Productive Investment Board made a recommendation for a \$122,400 grant for the Children's Health Outreach Initiative (CHOI).

3. Countywide Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee – Chair-Emeritus Philibosian

Chair- Emeritus Philibosian stated that there were no voting items discussed. He stated that he received a report on an information systems that is supposed to link all the Justice Systems together because the current system is non functional in some areas because the software is outdated. He stated that most of the software designers that created the software are retired or deceased. He also stated that the people who learned how to operate the software system are also retiring, have retired, or have died. Chair- Emeritus Philibosian stated that there was an interesting report from the Task Force on Auto-Theft called TRAP which will reduce the incidents of auto theft, increases the recovery of stolen automobiles, and identify trends and patterns of vehicle theft. He stated that the Sheriff Department get paid about \$400,000 dollars a year for that service which then pays for itself over time.

VIII. PRESENTATION

Chief Information Officer, Mr. Donald Blevins, presented an Overview of the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Barcelona's wife, Shawny stated that she enjoyed Mr. Blevins' presentation and discussion. She stated that she is not sure if she understood the dynamics of the Commission until she was able to sit through the meeting. She stated that her husband Chairman Barcelona has been with the Commission for over 10 years and she can now understand all the decisions and choices the Commission makes. She also thanked the Commission for reelecting Chairman Barcelona for another term as Chair of the Commission. Mrs. Barcelona thanked the Commissioners for welcoming her and allowing her to attend the Commission meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Eng reported that the Nominating Committee for Chairperson 2011 was Commissioner Padilla-1st District, Commissioner Lee-2nd District, Commissioner Reznik-3rd District, Commissioner Petak-4th District, and Commissioner Oakes-5th District. As the Nominating Committee's Spokesperson, Commissioner Petak reported that the Nominating Committee, by unanimous vote, has nominated Commissioner Isaac Barcelona for Chairman 2011.

Commission Vice-Chair Lee asked if there were any open floor nominations. Hearing none, Commissioner Lee asked for a motion to approve the nomination of Commissioner Isaac Barcelona as Chairperson 2011. It was Moved, Seconded, and Approved. By acclamation, Commissioner Lee declared Commissioner Barcelona as Chairperson 2011.

Chairman Barcelona stated that it is his duty to appoint the Vice-Chair and he would like to keep the team together and re-appoint Commissioner Lee as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Lee accepted his appointment and Chairman Barcelona declared Commissioner Lee as Vice-Chair of the Commission for 2011.

Chairman Barcelona stated that he has really enjoyed his 10 years on the Commission and is very honored to continue to serve as the Chair of the Commission for 2011. He stated that he is proud of the Commission and particularly the Civil Service Project that the Commission is still finishing up. He stated that he is very impressed with Commissioner Fuhrman and all his hard work. He also stated that he thinks this Commission does very important work that has very little to do with the Commissioners personal lives and that's what makes it so fascinating and interesting.

Executive Director, Mr. Edward Eng stated that he would like to discuss future projects for 2011 even though the Commission is still wrapping up the current Civil Service Project. His proposed projects included: (1) a follow up report on Succession Planning that was chaired by Dr. Petak more than two years ago (2) a review of the business license application process. He stated that anecdotally there appears to be some frustration related to the long length of time it takes to apply for a business license.

Commissioner Fuhrman stated that the issue of reducing the number of pre-trial detainees came up two to three years ago when the County first moved to the current Governance System. He stated that he spoke with the then DCEO for the Justice Cluster and one of the biggest issues on his agenda was reducing the number of pre-trial detainees in County custody. They include inmates who have been arrested and accused but not yet tried but are unable to post bail. He stated that this population represents a very significant number of inmates in custody. He stated that initially he was thinking of doing a project just on that matter but then thought that it may be too large a scope of work, but perhaps the Commission could do a project trying to assess the magnitude of the problem instead. He stated that the Commission could do a report to determine what the average number of the pre-trial detainees is, categorize that population as to who they are, why they are there, and how long they have been there. He also stated that the Commission could also look at what other jurisdictions have done. He stated that apparently New York City had a major report and has succeeded in reducing by about 1/3 of the average daily census by cutting the number of pre-trial detainees that were in custody. Commissioner Fuhrman stated that this would be a huge implication for the Sheriff's Department which spends half its budget roughly on custodial functions as well as implications on capital spending in terms of the size and number of facilities. He stated that he thinks this is a big dollar ticket item and is something that has been rattling around the County bureaucracy but yet doesn't seem to have gotten very far.

Chair- Emeritus Philibosian stated that he suspects the answers to all of Commissioner Fuhrman's questions would reside at the Sheriff's Department. He stated that he knows personally that the Sheriff is very concerned about this, his budget, and that he is trying to do whatever he can. Chair- Emeritus Philibosian further stated that he doesn't think the E&E Commission could add any value to this issue. Commissioner Fuhrman asked Chair- Emeritus Philibosian if the Commission's ability to raise awareness and bring publicity to this issue would help. Chair- Emeritus Philibosian replied that it has already been publicized within the Sheriff, the Courts, the D.A.'s Office, and the Public Defender and that they are all working on this issue. Commissioner Fuhrman also asked if this group have made any progress. Chair- Emeritus Philibosian replied no.

Commissioner Glassman stated that about four years ago, every Department were asked to develop a Customer Survey or ways of tracking their clients and customers and put it in practice and report back to the CEO. He stated that to his knowledge, most Departments

did that and the County followed up with an incredible amount of training and publicity about customer service. He stated that one of the things the Commission could do is to look at what the Departments are doing particularly in these tight budget times in terms of meeting the needs of the public, their customers, and find out what are some of the practices that the Commission can publicize in the report and let people know what the Departments are doing. He also stated that this is a different type of study than what the Commission is accustomed to but it could add a lot of value to the Commission's work.

Commission Reznik asked if the Commission has ever looked at the impact that the Commission has actually made over the last five Reports. She stated that she would like to know if we have made a difference with the reports that have been written and completed. Commissioner Reznik stated that she is interested in understanding personally where all this goes and how productive and effective the Commission is in spending all the time producing the work. She would very much like to know if the work that the Commission is doing effective in a measurable way or is it just speculative that the Commission is trying to make a splash and hope something happens out of it. She also stated that she thinks it is worth looking into in a more scientific way than we already have. She stated that looking into this matter in more detail could be more instructive to the Commission. Commissioner Reznik further stated that the Commission should understand the impact the Commission is having and decide if what we do works for the Commission. Commissioner Fuhrman stated that even if the Board of Supervisors accepts and implements our recommendations the Commission still needs to know if it worked. Commissioner Reznik stated that she is curious personally to know that her time spent is actually having an impact and that maybe other Commissioners are interested as well in knowing that. Chairman Barcelona stated that one way to gauge the Commission's effectiveness would be to communicate with the Board or different Departments to see if anything that the Commission has recommended has had an impact on their Department and if so, what are those impacts. Commissioner Reznik stated that it seems that the Commissioners should understand where everything goes as far as impact, like a self evaluation.

Chair-Emeritus stated that he would like to follow up on Mr. Eng's suggestion and take a look into the Business License process. He stated that if this County is to generate more revenue without raising taxes, then one way is to create jobs and commerce. He stated that people who have jobs pay taxes, businesses that sell things pay taxes and the tax base can be increased by increasing jobs. He stated that the Commission could have an influence on increasing jobs by streamlining the process for small businesses to get them going since small businesses are the businesses that employ people. He stated that this was a very good suggestion from the Executive Director and would like to advocate that the Commission follow up on his proposal. Commissioner Petak stated that streamlining the permitting processes in the County is key to developing new businesses and income.

Commissioner Kalm stated that he would like to mention his reaction to the Governors proposal to move some services to the County. He stated that it is a profound suggestion that may have an impact on the Commission in terms of possibilities. He stated that he recognized in Mr. Blevins' presentation in which he commented that he would take the work as long as funding came with it. Commissioner Kalm stated that on a philosophic level that he is a conservative Republican and that Jerry Brown is right in that the more things that can be done at the local level, the more they should be and somehow the money has to be sorted out. He also stated that the Commission should at least follow the debate to determine whether anything comes out of this dialogue at the political level that would create

a potential project for the Commission. He stated that this project is a well meaning suggestion that has a lot of political overtones, for examples, people not wanting the responsibilities without the funding, and the political overtones of Prop 13 issues. He stated that it is not clear how all of it will play out but this would be a start on an interesting dialogue on the subject of moving functionality back to the County.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Barcelona at 11:29 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Edward Eng,
Executive Director