

**ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
February 4, 2021**

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 Munoz called the Commission meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

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

The following was the attendance for the meeting:

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Robert Cole  
Nancy Coleman  
Benjamin Everard  
Jacob Haik  
Michael Hastings  
Ronald K. Ikejiri  
T. Warren Jackson  
Ed Munoz  
Robert Philibosian  
Wilma Pinder  
Yolanda Rodriguez-Pena  
Joanne Saliba  
Natalie Samarjian  
John Anthony Schmitz  
Velveth Schmitz  
Connie Sullivan  
Steven Ward  
Cesar Zaldivar-Motts

**COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING TO BE EXCUSED**

Becca Doten  
Larry Kaplan  
Jeffrey Monical

**III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 7, 2021 MINUTES**

Chair Munoz asked if there were any objections or changes to the minutes of the January 7, 2021 Commission meeting. Hearing no changes, the motion was then Moved, Seconded, and Adopted. The minutes of the January 7, 2021 Commission meeting were approved.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**V. REPORTS**

**A. CCJCC**

Chair Munoz reported that Supervisor Hilda Solis is the Chair of the CCJCC for 2021. He reported that there were discussions on Restorative Care Villages, Interim Housing, and developing plans to close Men's Central Jail. He reported that there was a status update on ISAB's current projects and priorities to facilitate data sharing and systems integration within the criminal justice system. He also reported that there were discussions and an overview on Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) employment services, and ongoing efforts to connect justice-involved populations with employment opportunities.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Environmental Transit Stop Solution**

Commissioner Saliba reported that the task force has not met since the last Commission meeting. She reported that this project has been placed on hold. She also reported that the project came from the 1<sup>st</sup> District, Supervisor Hilda Solis's Office.

Executive Director Eng reported that the Department of Public Works (DPW) has run into a roadblock trying to contact the vendor (Green City Solutions). He reported that the task force is now at a crossroads on whether they should look for an alternative solution or continue down the path of trying to get in touch with Green City Solutions.

Executive Director Eng also stated that based on Supervisor Solis's video message, she would like the task force to look at a model that does not include advertisement. He reported that currently advertisers install and maintain most of the bus stops in Los Angeles County and in return, advertisers receive advertising revenues used to fund the maintenance. He reported that Supervisor Solis would like the task force to come up with an alternative approach.

Commissioner J. Schmitz reported that he also watched the video that Supervisor Solis submitted to the Commission and he feels that there were some encouraging comments in her remarks regarding the Transit Stop issues. He reported that she is aware that the task force is on hold and looking for other avenues of completing the project. He also reported that Supervisor Solis is interested in the task force coming up with alternative solutions.

Commissioner Sullivan confirmed that Supervisor Solis stated in her video that it would be helpful if the task force can come up with different ways for funding since everything is currently reliant on advertising.

Commissioner Haik reported that a lot of the cities will piggyback on County contracts if the task force can develop something. He reported that not having the advertising dollars will be a challenge for the City of LA.

Commissioner V. Schmitz stated that we need to bifurcate a charge that these were transit solutions for beautification but also there was an environmental component to it. She asked if the task force going to make transit stops a beautification area for the community or are we looking for it to have environmental aspects. She stated that the task force needs more clear direction from the supervisor to help it move forward.

Commissioner Cole asked if there have been any discussions about potential synergistic solutions with other Commissions or Committees that may deal with the environment so that the E&E Commission doesn't have to take on too much with its limited resources.

Executive Director Eng stated that the two organizations with a sustainability or beautification component are ISD and Arts and Culture Commission. He reported that he can find out what additional resources they can assist the task force with after the task force receives more clarity from the Supervisor's Office.

## **B. Telework best practices in Los Angeles County**

Commissioner Haik reported that Executive Director Eng did an amazing job putting together a PowerPoint presentation and time-consuming interviews were conducted which provided great insight into telework during the pandemic. He reported that the task force would do a presentation of the PowerPoint decks to the entire Commission and DHR. He also stated that Executive Director Eng did the work and he never cease to amaze the Commission with his knowledge and work ethic. He reported that it was a great presentation of all the challenges and discussions of the 50 people interviewed. He reported that out of all the information Executive Director Eng drew conclusions on hybrid models that the task force supported. He reported that it is a template because there is a lot more information out there that the task force will include in the final write-up.

Commissioner Jackson reported that one of the things that impressed him is that this is a very engaged committee with great participation. He reported that everyone is engaged, and the presentation was well done.

Executive Director Eng reported that the task force can present the findings and recommendations at the next meeting and after receiving the Commission's blessing on the approach and recommendations, he can begin writing and the final report should be ready for review in approximately two months. He also reported that each task force member will then meet with their Supervisor and report the findings and get each district's feedback. He reported that the report should be completed no later than June 2021.

Commissioner Pinder stated that it is encouraging to know that the task force has gotten so much done in so little time. She stated that she would like to thank the task force and Executive director for all their hard work during these difficult times.

Commissioner Sullivan stated that she would like to echo the value of the survey that Executive Director Eng did. She stated that it added a lot of information and context that will be very helpful for the findings of the report.

### **C. Evaluate LA County DCFS Foster Youth Program**

Commissioner Ward stated that the task force has been able to get a little movement on the project. He reported that he reached out to Chief Deputy Anna Mouradian and finally received an idea of what the Supervisor would like the task force to look at. He reported that the E&E Commission did a study on this subject back in 2002. He reported that a copy of the 2002 report has been sent out to all the task force members and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). He also reported that the task force will be meeting with Chief Deputy Director Ginger Pryor and the DCFS team on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, to discuss what recommendations have been implemented and which ones they are currently still working on. Commissioner Ward reported that the task force will report back at the March E&E Commission meeting on what took place at the meeting with DCFS.

Chair-Emeritus Philibosian reported that he was the one who initiated the report because he was concerned about what happens to these youths once they are moved out of the system. He stated that the idea of the initial report was to try and establish a transitional period and to ensure that there is a support system or infrastructure in place. He also reported that DCFS has recently changed its Director.

Commissioner Ward stated that he strongly encourages the task force members to read the findings and recommendations from the previous report and be prepared to ask questions when meeting with DCFS.

Commissioner Coleman stated that it is also important to look at the many changes made in state law since 2002. She stated that one of the changes is to allow foster care youth to stay in the system to access additional services post 18 years old.

Commissioner Hastings reported that the report is comprehensive and the questions that need to be asked should be discussed before the initial meeting. He reported that the things that Chair-Emeritus Philibosian pointed out in the summary of the report are so critical today especially when you talk about affordable housing and all the internal structures that weren't corrected in 2002. He reported that it is important for the task force to dive into this project because these youth are falling through the cracks faster and it is becoming apart of the homeless problem. He requested a pre-meeting with the task force.

Commissioner Ward reported that he will work with Executive Director Eng to try and schedule a pre-task force meeting before the initial meeting with DCFS to discuss a strategy.

Executive Director Eng reported that the 5<sup>th</sup> District directed the Commission to start with the 2002 report and find out what recommendations have been implemented and which ones haven't and why. He stated that more detailed questions will arise through this process. He stated that he will schedule a pre-meeting with the task force.

### **VII. PRESENTATION**

There was no presentation at the February Microsoft Teams Meeting.

### **VIII. COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nothing new to report.

**IX. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Executive Director Eng stated that he would like to congratulate Chair-Emeritus Philibosian for being reappointed as a Commissioner by the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

Chair Munoz stated that he would like to also thank Chair-Emeritus Philibosian for all he does for the E&E Commission.

Chair-Emeritus Philibosian stated that it is his pleasure as long as he can contribute to the Commission and remain active.

Administrative Assistant Pittmon reported that she is currently working on rescheduling Supervisor Solis to be the E&E Commissions guest speaker since new conflicts prevented her from speaking at the February meeting.

Administrative Assistant Pittmon suggested the Commission to adjust some of the etiquettes of monthly meetings so that the meetings can run more efficiently that for the next meeting. she will try and mute all Commissioners and only allow each person to unmute themselves after being called on to speak. She requested the Commissioners to familiarize themselves with the “raised hand” icon at the top of the MS Teams screen.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Jackson at 11:59 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Executive Director, Edward Eng