

**ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES  
2020**

500 West Temple Street, Room B-50b  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone: (213) 974-1431  
Fax: (213) 633-5102  
Email: [lgs@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:lgs@bos.lacounty.gov)  
Website: <http://lgsc.lacounty.gov>

---

**APPOINTED MEMBERS**

---

First District Appointees

**PAUL J. PHILIPS**  
**ELIZABETH ALCANTAR**

Second District Appointees

**MARK BURMAN**  
**RUBEN GONZALEZ**

Third District Appointees

**JON DEARING, 2<sup>ND</sup> Vice Chairperson**  
**JOHN BWARIE**

Fourth District Appointees

**BARRY WAITE**  
**VACANT**

Fifth District Appointees

**DARRELL GEORGE, Chairperson**  
**ANDREW FRIEDMAN**

Mayor, City of Los Angeles Appointees

**ANA PONCE**  
**ANESSA KARNEY**

CA Contract Cities Association Appointee

**JORGE MORALES**

L.A. County Div. League of CA Cities Appointee

**SHARON SPRINGER 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice Chairperson**

Independent Cities Association Appointee

**VACANT**

President, Los Angeles City Council Appointees

**DRAKE DILLARD**  
**JOHN A. SONEGO**  
**JULES S. BAGNERIS, III, PH.D.,**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient alternatives for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County of Los Angeles.

## **VISION**

A value driven culture, characterized by extraordinary employee commitment to enrich lives through effective and caring service, and empower people through knowledge and information.

## **VALUES**

- Integrity: We do the right thing: being honest, transparent, and accountable.
- Inclusivity: We embrace the need for multiple perspectives where individual and community differences are seen as strengths.
- Compassion: We treat those we serve, and each other, the way we want to be treated.
- Customer Orientation: We place our highest priority on meeting the needs of our customers.

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Commission on Local Governmental Services (Commission) seeks to find means to improve services, eliminate redundancies among public service providers, and identify areas where economies of scale can be achieved while providing better responsiveness to citizen needs. The Commission advises government leaders in the County of Los Angeles on ways to provide better, more responsible and cost-effective delivery of services. In addition, the Commission reports and monitors on the implementation of its recommendations.

## **Historical Background**

The Board of Supervisors formed the Commission in 1977 to identify and recommend cost-effective and efficient ideas for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County. On the first Tuesday of each month the Commission holds its meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 374-A, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration for presentations and discussions of various issues that may affect the County. Since March 2020, the Commission meeting have been held virtual via Web-ex.

## FOCUS

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission invited Dr. Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Health Officer to the October 16, 2020 meeting. He provided the Commission with a status of COVID-19 as it relates to Los Angeles County, businesses, families and the correlation or connection of the spread of the virus. In addition, Dr. Davis reported statistics on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths within Los Angeles County. At time of reporting, Dr. Davis noted that hospitalizations remain stable, but daily case counts have increased over the last few weeks.

Highlighted in his report was California's 4-tiered color-coded system for tracking COVID-19. The four tiers are purple, red, orange, and yellow:

- Tier 1 (Purple): Counties with widespread cases
- Tier 2 (Red): Areas with substantial amount of cases
- Tier 3 (Orange): Moderate number of cases
- Tier 4 (Yellow): Minimal amount of cases

The tiers are determined by:

- Seven-day average case count, per 100,000
- Seven-day average of positive tests per 100,000
- Testing positivity using the Healthy Places Index, measured by income, education and activity in the lowest resource areas

Dr. Davis also noted that within the last few weeks, the numbers within Los Angeles County have increased, and was in Tier 1 based on its' seven-day average and new case rate measures. He added that all City and County officials were required to follow the orders and guidelines set forth by the State Health Officer. Dr. Davis stressed the importance of moving slowly during reopening so as not to move backwards with progress and stated that the Department of Public Health would be monitoring healthcare systems within Los Angeles County for the possible dual impact of Influenza and COVID-19. He added that if everyone followed strict mask guidelines, there would be a significant decrease in transmission rates, although some factors keeping transmission rates from decreasing are asymptomatic people who are not wearing masks and travelers coming into Los Angeles County from other states. Dr. Davis recommended paying attention to local circumstances and data to see what was being done that is required for each area.

Dr. Davis further reported that there were two FDA approved medicines being used to treat COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccine trials are still ongoing and there would most likely not be vaccines available before the end of 2020. He added that because the virus needs a host to survive, COVID-19 most likely cannot be transmitted through smoke emitted through fires or second-hand smoke.

**Commission Recommendation/Long Term Goal:** The Commission agreed that due to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, the information provided by Dr. Davis will be beneficial for the Commissioners to share with the constituents of their prospective communities.

## **2020 Census**

The Commission invited the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) and the Chief Executive Office, Census Unit who provided the Commission with an overview of what is currently being done to ensure an accurate 2020 Census.

On January 7, 2020, Rigoberto Reyes, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs reported since September 2017, immigrant communities and developed the Immigrant Protection and Advancement Strategy Report with directives that will work with immigrant communities to support their needs and use outreach to enhance education on available services. Mr. Reyes added there are steps that the OIA has taken to encourage more participation in the Census.

As a follow up, on March 3, 2020, Myles Meshack, Chief Executive Office, Census Unit, reported and stressed the importance of an accurate Census count. An accurate count determines the number of seats represented in the House of Representatives, as well as the Los Angeles County Boundaries and funding for Los Angeles County. In an effort to maximize the count in hard to reach areas, Mr. Meshack noted that Los Angeles County has a robust outreach program designed to target hard to count populations and provided the Commission with informational materials regarding the importance of the census and a schedule of important dates for distribution to their constituents.

**Commission Recommendation/Long Term Goal:** The Commission agreed to submit a proposal to the CEO to include more cities within Los Angeles County as partners to assist in future Census Counts.

## **Autonomous Vehicles & Micro-Mobility**

Marcel Porrás, Chief Sustainability Officer, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) reported to the Commission that LADOT continued to evaluate and implement policies for various transportation technologies, including autonomous vehicles (AV) and micro-mobility (dock less bikes and scooters). These efforts are in coordination with State of California representatives, California Department of Motor Vehicles and the California Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Porrás added that the City of Los Angeles and LADOT are taking steps in preparation for the emergence of the advancements in AV technology and that Los Angeles has applied for a federal grant to test AV technology on bus systems within Los Angeles.

**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:** Cities and unincorporated Los Angeles County should consult with LADOT on their regulatory approaches for transportation technologies, including for planning for autonomous vehicles, permitting requirements for micro-mobility operators, and use of data-enabled regulatory mechanisms such as the Mobility Data Specification.

The Commission will continue to monitor LADOT data to understand the best fit for applying best practices into individual cities or areas.

## **Initiatives for Non-Profit Organizations**

Since February 5, 2019, the Commission researched Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) and the obstacles non-profit organizations encounter through the course of providing services to the constituents within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

HOLA expressed concerns that as a non-profit employer, it does not have the same effective buying power as for-profit employers which can receive a tax deduction for purchasing transit passes for employees.

**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:** The Commission concluded that LA METRO should continue to evaluate and implement modifications to the bulk transit pass purchasing program for employers to ensure that non-profit organizations have the same effective buying power as for-profit organizations.

The necessity of continuing to assess models of shared services associated with new infrastructure investments requires further research from other organizations that work with non-profits.

## Homeless Initiative

Since 2018, the Commission has worked diligently to address homelessness. During the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 4, 2018, Chairperson Paul Philips and Commissioner Darrell George addressed the Board in support of Measure “H” and the implementation of the local cities’ proposed plans to address homelessness in Los Angeles County.

The Commission sought additional input from United Way on November 12, 2019 regarding supportive housing, services and collaborations to address homelessness within LA County and discussed how the Commission and agencies such as United Way can work together to implement Homeless Initiative programs using Measure “H” funds.

In studying this topic, the Commission noted that cities within Los Angeles County can have difficulty identifying areas and buildings that can be converted to usable affordable housing.

In July 2020, the Commission sought input from Christina Ma, Account Executive with Smart Cities on her organization and the Smart City Plan, a program the organization uses to create areas of available affordable housing. She reported that by using the housing first method and analyzing all the available data within a particular region, city leaders can better evaluate and maximize the impact that housing developments and projects have based on the needs of the region. Ms. Ma added that the goal of the organization is to identify usable City or County parcels and enable the acceleration of the permitting, zoning and approval process to improve communication outreach to communities in need.

**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:** The County of Los Angeles and its partner agencies should involve cities more proactively in administering supportive services for the homeless population, increasing access and utilization and reducing the administrative burdens of local grant programs available to cities. Additionally, the County should identify existing city programs that can receive funding to scale more quickly than creating new programs from scratch.

## **Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – Project Lifesaver**

Since 2017, the Commission has worked with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and has assisted in the development of Project Lifesaver.

The Bring Our Loved Ones Home Task Force (Task Force) conducted an in-depth study on developing a program that would track adults and children who wander away so caregivers could find them.

In 2018, the Commission then sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Sheriff's recommendation for a mobile Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives (MILO) system. Lieutenant Gannon reported from 2018 to 2019, that the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) was recognized for its' comprehensive approach and chosen to provide the Crisis Intervention training mandated for all Sheriff Department personnel.

**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION / LONG-TERM GOAL:** The Commission determined that this training shows promise in the ability of the Sheriff's Department officers to de-escalate previously volatile scenarios.

The Commission will continue to monitor and make recommendations that contribute to the expansion and continued success of Project Lifesaver and its affiliate programs for first responders throughout California.

The Commission's long-term goal is to have the Project Lifesaver Program be Post Certified in the Police Officer Standard of Training and be eligible for State funding.

### **Items Taken off Calendar**

After further research and discussion, the Commission agreed it was not feasible to pursue the following items and they were taken off Calendar:

- Tree Removal
- The White Paper
- AB 109



## Conclusion

For the past year, the Commission has been meeting virtually and remains committed to discussing issues and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors relevant to meeting the objectives of its Mission Statement. The current Board make-up is professionally, culturally and ethnically diverse, and approaches each of the agenda items in a thoughtful and reasoned manner. The Commission has identified issues facing the County that the Commission will prioritize in the upcoming year including Homelessness, COVID-19, and the increasing presence of Illegal Fireworks. The Commission will continue to identify such issues and recommend cost-effective and efficient alternatives for the delivery of multi-jurisdictional services within the County of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Darrell George, Chairperson  
Los Angeles County Commission on  
Local Governmental Services

c: Board of Supervisors  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
President, Los Angeles City Council  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities