

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2004

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on November 8, 2004 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Davalos called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m. The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Davalos
Vice President Lesser
Treasurer Duba
Commissioner Creary
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Lewis
Commissioner Mummey
Commissioner Rodriguez

Introduction of the audience followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Vice President Lesser, and unanimously carried, the minutes of October 25, 2004 were approved with the following correction requested from Commissioner Gravely by phone:

On page 1, under approval of the minutes of September 27, 2004, the sentence should read...On motion of ~~Commissioner Gravely~~ **Commissioner Jernigan**, seconded by....

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Davalos reported the following:

- She attended the JCC First Annual Opening Doors Scholarship Awards Presentation on November 4, 2004 at the Disney Concert Hall.
- She provided an overview of the Association of California Commission for Women (ACCW) November Quarterly Meeting on November 5, 2004 in San Rafael, CA. Issues discussed include the 2004 NACW Convention and the Governor's plan to abolish state commissions. Additionally, in Marin County the Office of Women's Advocacy is seeking to hire an employee at \$90,000 a year. The ACCW meeting continued with a mini retreat to discuss the ACCW newsletter, bylaws, mission statement and logo.

After Commissioners discussed sending a letter to the Governor in support of keeping state commissions, they requested staff to research the county's position in this matter.

Commissioners also requested staff to agendize a discussion on hosting the 2005 ACCW Convention.

(Commissioner Creary was excused from the meeting during the report.)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Duba reported on the expenditures for the month of October 2004. The beginning balance for October was \$26,347.51; expenditures were \$1,495.29; income was \$94.63; and the ending balance was \$24,946.85. The monthly spending allowance for November 2004 is \$3,118.36. In response to Commissioner Jernigan's request, staff explained the expenditure balance.

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- The Office of Women's Health received a Productivity and Quality Commission Award on October 27, 2004 at the Music Center for their Cervical Cancer Prevention and Education Initiative Program.
- The County has updated a website to include photos, address and detailed information about high risk sex offenders at www.gismap.co.la.ca.us.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Davalos assigned Commissioners to the following committees:

- Finance Committee: Chair, President Davalos; 1st Vice Chair, Vice President Lesser; 2nd Vice Chair, Treasurer Duba
 - 5K Run/Walk Subcommittee: Chair, Treasurer Duba; Vice Chair, Vice President Lesser
 - 2005 Women of the Year Awards Subcommittee: President Davalos, Commissioner Perkins, Commissioner Lewis, and Commissioner Morgan. The Second District appointment is pending.
- Older Women's Issues Committee: Chair, Commissioner Mummey
- Health Committee: Chair, Commissioner Creary; 1st Vice Chair, Commissioner Rodriguez; 2nd Vice Chair, Vice President Lesser
- Legislative Committee: Chair, Ruth Jernigan

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

On motion of Commissioner Mummey, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of up to 10 tickets at \$125 each, based on how many Commissioners are interested in attending, to the California Governor's Conference for Women and Families scheduled for December 7, 2004 at the Long Beach Convention Center. President Davalos, Vice President Lesser, and Commissioners Lewis, Mummey, and Rodriguez expressed interest in attending.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES

Commissioners from each District reported on their recommendations for domestic violence agencies to receive grants.

Commissioners discussed increasing the domestic violence agencies grants from \$200 to \$500 . On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Vice President Lesser, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved \$500 grants to the following domestic violence agencies: 1st District - Violence Intervention Program; 2nd District – The Jenesse Center, Inc.; 3rd District – to be determined; 4th District - Su Casa Family Crisis Center; and 5th District - Antelope Valley Crisis Center/Valley Oasis Shelter.

(Commissioner Perkins joined the meeting.)

PROGRAMS OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

E. Felicia Brannon, Chairman of the Board of Habitat for Humanity in Los Angeles, provided an overview of Habitat for Humanity's building and funding projects for qualifying low income families. Approximately 110 homes have been built in Los Angeles at an average cost of \$125,000 per home. The Los Angeles County Community Development Commission donated eight plots of land and the Los Angeles Housing Development donated homes in need of rehabilitation. In addition, Board Members are required to raise at least \$7500 a year. Habitat for Humanity, furthermore, trains families to manage their finances and to improve their credit. Families are encouraged to save for the down payment and when building the home, family and friends are required to donate 500 hours of time to home construction, which she calls "sweat equity." She invited Commissioners to participate in home construction, suggesting they may be interested in the Women Building Homes Project.

President Davalos thanked Ms. Brannon for her informative presentation.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones joined the meeting during the presentation.)

COMMISSION ANNUAL RETREAT

Commissioner Becerra-Jones, Co-Chair of the Retreat Committee, recommended considering issues from the retreat by placing retreat issues on the agenda regularly. President Davalos also suggested that the Commission focus on addressing one women's issue which is consistent with the Commission's charge in the ordinance. Commissioner Becerra-Jones further suggested that the Commission hold an additional retreat in six months to revisit some of the issues from the retreat. Commissioner Jernigan suggested addressing the issue of the early release of batterers from jail and Commissioner Perkins added that the Commission could discuss an issue of concern in detail at a business meeting.

Commissioners also discussed holding the annual Holiday Gathering after the December 13, 2004 meeting at a local restaurant.

FIRST DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING

President Davalos reported that she is contacting the First District about holding a community meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health Committee: Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the Health Committee met today to discuss attending the King/Drew Medical Center March/Rally/Hearing on November 15, 2004 at King Drew Magnet High School Auditorium. Commissioner Creary planned to obtain the Executive Summary of the Hearing. The Health Committee requested that the Commission consider becoming a community partner with the Office Women's Health at the next meeting.

Domestic Violence Committee: Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the Committee is finalizing the letter requesting the county department managers to revisit recommendations made 10 years ago by the Domestic Violence Task Force. President Davalos recommended presenting the video tape on "Building a Safer Community" to each of the domestic violence agencies along with the Commission's grant. Commissioner Perkins suggested presenting that video and/or a *Los Angeles Times* video on local resources and services at the Commission's community district meetings. Commissioner Becerra-Jones added that the Commission could distribute the County Resource Directory at these meetings.

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Jernigan reported on proposed modifications to the social security program for people under the age of 40.

Media/Public Relations Committee: There was no report.

Older Women's Issues Committee: Commissioner Mummey indicated a judge in Alameda, California has established an elderly abuse court that is held one day a week at a special time. She also spoke on a movie entitled "Moleta," which addresses the issue of female genital circumcision.

5K Run/Walk Scholarship Presentation: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported on plans for the scholarship presentation scheduled for January 11, 2004. She also suggested that the Commission look into the issue of Social Security Insurance modifications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Genevieve Clavreul spoke on the violations of the Brown Act.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Perkins attended the Jenesse Center, Inc., 2004 Silver Rose Awards Dinner on October 29, 2004.

Commissioner Jernigan thanked Commissioners who supported her at the Silver Rose Awards. As an honoree she reiterated the importance of supporting domestic violence shelters.

Vice President Lesser reported on her work as an inspector for the 2004 Presidential Election, noting that her precinct had an 85% voter turnout.

On behalf of Commissioner Creary, staff announced that Commissioner Creary attended the Mid Wilshire Domestic Violence Collaborative Reception on October 27, 2004 at Plummer Park Auditorium; the Dubnoff Center for Special Needs Children Annual Fundraiser on October 28, 2004 at the Omni Hotel; the Jenesse Center, Inc., 2004 Silver Rose Awards Dinner on October 29, 2004; the F.A.M.E. Church Press Conference with Chevron/Texaco on November 7, 2004 at the F.A.M.E. Renaissance Center; and the funeral of Dr. William I. Young on November 8, 2004 at West Angeles Church of God.

Commissioner Becerra-Jones attended a meeting regarding several Catholic Churches involved in the King/Drew Medical Center rally in the Second District.

Commissioner Rodriguez attended the Mid Wilshire Domestic Violence Collaborative on October 27, 2004 at Plummer Park Auditorium.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA: There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Karin Davalos, President
Charlotte Lesser, Vice President
Reiko Duba, Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones
Ruth Creary, Ph.D
Ruth Jernigan
Bonnie J. Lewis
Janet Mummey, Esq.
Barbara Perkins
Olivia Rodriguez

EXCUSED

Wadie Gravely
Lila Morgan

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Executive Office Staff: Jim Corbett, Steve Erickson, Nyla Jefferson, and Gabriel Alexander

GUESTS

E. Felicia Brannon, Habitat for Humanity - Los Angeles
Genevieve Clavreul
Rone Ellis