



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://laccod.org>**

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

1:00 PM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (16-0198)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (15-5588)

President Carlos Benavides called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

1st Vice President Janet Neal, Commissioners John Troost, and Hector Ochoa joined the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Present: President Carlos Benavides, 1st Vice President Janet A. Neal, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, Commissioner Allan Buck, Commissioner Rosa Maria Chaturvedi, Commissioner John R. James, Commissioner Steve Miller, Commissioner Hector Ochoa, Commissioner Peggie Reyna, Commissioner Rita Tomassian-Hopkins and Commissioner John B. Troost

Absent: 2nd Vice President Wendy Welt Narro, Commissioner Edward A. Colley, Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Commissioner Dee Pinchbeck, Commissioner Sheila D. Wright and Commissioner Wan Chun Chang

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of December 16, 2015. (16-0382)

On motion of Commissioner Allan Buck, seconded by Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza, and there being no objection, the Minutes of December 16, 2015 was approved with the following amendment:

On page 4, second paragraph, first sentence of the Minutes should read: George Stevens, Director of North Los Angeles County Regional Center and Dr. Ron Cohen, Executive Director Chief Executive Officer of United Cerebral Palsy for Ventura, Santa Barbara Counties and Los Angeles Counties...

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Discussion and Possible action regarding Total Recall Captioning costs for the Commission. (15-5368)

During discussion, Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza proposed that the Commission write a letter requesting the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors encumber the monthly expenses for Total Recall Captioning service.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Peggie Reyna, seconded by Commissioner Steve Miller, and there being no objection, the Commission approved Treasurer Lourdes Caracoza draft a letter to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors to encumber the monthly captioning costs, to be signed by President Carlos Benavides on behalf of the Commission.

II. REPORTS

3. Receive and file the Access Services, Incorporated Board of Directors meeting report for January 2016. (16-0385)

Commissioner John Troost reported there was no Access Services, Inc. Board meeting scheduled for January 2016. Therefore, the item was taken off calendar without discussion.

4. Receive and File the monthly METRO Accessibility Report by Yvonne Price, Accessibility Programs Administrator for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO). (16-0386)

Yvonne Price, Accessibility Programs Administrator of METRO, distributed invitations to the Commission for the Abilities Expo (a free event) to be held on February 5 - 7, 2016 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. METRO will host a red carpet premier of its five (5) ADA videos on Friday, February 5, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. The videos will be in English and Spanish with open captioning to increase accessibility to the information. Additional language versions will be added in the coming months. Also, during the event, METRO will showcase five (5) booths on Access, Strapping, and Projects from the Riders Club.

Additional information can be accessed on METRO'S website at www.metro.net.

1st Vice President Janet Neal and Commissioner Peggie Reyna provided their comments.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATIONS

- 5. Presentation by the Jeff Reeb, Director of Emergency Management, Chief Executive Office, on SNAP (Specific Needs Disaster Program) and preparations for the El Niño predicted weather. (15-5562)**

Jeff Reeb, conducted the PowerPoint presentation overview and updates on the Specific Needs Awareness Planning (SNAP) program. He introduced Sinan Khan, CEO Access and Functional Needs Coordinator, who was also available and provided additional information on SNAP. SNAP was created to actively engage people with Disabilities and others with Access and Functional Needs for Emergency Planning.

Mr. Reeb reported the SNAP program was not readily adopted by the disable community with only 4000 registrants and it did not guarantee priority service to those who registered. Therefore, SNAP sunsetted and the County's emergency management team merged SNAP registrants to Alert LA County (Alert). Alert is Los Angeles County implemented emergency mass notification system that will contact County residents and businesses via recorded phone messages, text messages and e-mail during emergencies. Residents with non-mobile or landline phones are automatically enrolled.

Mr. Reeb also informed the Commission on the County's preparations for the anticipated weather forecasts of El Niño. He stated that the Department of Public Works is making sure the drains are clean and rain water will be collected. Sandbags will be available at most of the County's Fire Stations and the Sheriffs have been engaging the homeless population living in the Los Angeles River to move for their own safety. For severe weather, homeless services will expand to 24 hour beds and at various County Parks, beds will also be available to the homeless.

Commissioner Peggy Reyna noted the Office of Emergency Management should look to upgrade Alert to accommodate hearing impaired converse to the use of TTY which is obsolete for most hearing impaired.

In response to questions posed by 1st Vice President Janet Neal, Mr. Reeb will report back to the Commission on whether the County's fire explorers will fill and stack sandbags for the disabled.

President Carlos Benavides thanked Mr. Reeb for his helpful presentation.

After discussion, on motion of 1st Vice President Janet Neal and by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed with a report back from to the Commission on whether the County's fire explorers will fill and stack sandbags for the disabled.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Presentation on emergency preparedness by Access Services Incorporated by Mike Greenwood, Vice President of Operations. (16-0383)

Mike Greenwood, Access Services, Inc (ASI) Vice President of Operations, conducted a PowerPoint presentation on Access Services paratransit emergency preparedness program. ASI became members of TransMAC, Transit Mutual Assistance Compact, a transportation mutual aid agreement with 20 Southern California transit agencies after lessons learned from the 2014 Colby Fire. TransMAC enhances regional reliance by allowing a coordinated effort among transit agencies to support each other. ASI also recently implemented and hired five, Road Safety Inspector that monitor services provided by ASI and have been trained for emergencies.

Mr. Greenwood reported in preparation for El Niño, ASI conducts extra vehicle inspections and contracts with Alert to inform clients were to get sandbags and provides other updates.

After discussion, the Commission poised the following questions concerning ASI preparations for El Niño weather forecasts:

- **How will ASI provide services to a client in an electric wheelchair when the destination is inaccessible due to flooding?**
- **How does ASI contact a disabled rider waiting in the rain, if the driver is unable to reach the client?**

- **What alternatives can be made to reach clients during rain storms when pick up location is inaccessible to avoid "No Show" status?**
- **Without a severe weather plan, how will ASI handle no shows? What are your plans and its process? No show may increase due to the weather.**
- **Does ASI have a severe weather contingency plan and how will it be executed?**
- **Is there a hotline number for emergencies?**
- **Is there an emergency evacuation coordination plan with the Sheriff's and/or Fire Department during inclement weather?**
- **Is there a brochure or any literature for the evacuation plan?**

Richard Martindale, ASI, stated generally the ASI no shows standard policy is to administer up to five letters to clients before the unanswered letters give cause to suspend service. For a family member to clear a no show, they need to contact ASI customer service immediately after the incidence and the no show will be forgiven without rebuttal.

During discussion, President Benavides requested Mr. Greenwood and ASI prepare a report before the Commission to address their concerns. He thanked Mr. Greenwood for his presentation and looked forward to his presentation in February.

Therefore, on motion of President Benavides, and by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was continued to the February 17, 2016 meeting.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. **Receive and File the report on State and Federal regulations and the rights of people with disabilities that have assistance animal by the Los Angeles City Department of Disability. (16-0394)**

Carey Stone, City of Los Angeles, provided an overview of the American with Disabilities Act State and Federal regulations on the definition of a service animal. She stated an animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability defines this service as comfort and/or assistance animals. She added, comfort, assistance, and emotional support animals do not require certification; however, may lack specific training and have behavioral problems in public and would most likely only address the needs of its owner. She also discussed the variances in laws for restaurants, airports and landlords/renters.

Following discussion, 1st Vice President Janet Neal, President Carlos Benavides, and Commissioner John James provided comments.

President Carlos Benavides thanked Ms. Stone for her informative presentation.

By Common Consent, and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

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IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 8.** Receive and File President Report for the Month of January 2016. (16-0389)

There was no President's report.

- 9.** Receive and File the Departmental written report updates and staff report submitted by Emma De Jesus. (16-0391)

Staff referred to the Supporting Document submitted by the Department of Public Social Services on In-Home Supportive Overtime Regulations. Commissioners were reminded to submit to staff their Employee Code of Conduct Policy Acknowledgement form. Commissioners were also reminded to provide staff with justification of their mileage prior to the meeting if they attended events/meetings where they represented the Commission and of which should be reported to the Commission during Commission Announcements.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, the item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

- 10.** Discussion and possible action on Standing (Education, Transportation, Housing, Media, Recreation/Access), Event Committee and Proposed Ad-Hoc Committees for 2016 as requested by President Benavides. (15-4910)

Education Committee

Chair Troost announced the Committee will be meeting immediately following the regular Commission meeting. His members include Commissioner James and will be assisted by President Benavides and 1st Vice President Neal.

Transportation Committee

Chair Janet Neal reported the Committee met on January 13, 2016 and her members include Commissioners Benavides and Caracoza.

Recreation/Access

Chair Carlos Benavides reported that he is still working with Commissioner Ochoa on accessibility throughout LA County.

Events Committee

Chair Janet Neal reported the Committee met on January 13, 2016. Her members include Commissioners Benavides, Caracoza, and Troost

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

11. Event/Transportation Reports as submitted by Commissioner Janet A. Neal. (15-5697)

Transportation Committee

Chair Janet Neal reported the Committee continues to address gasoline refueling, parking enforcement, blue curbs, level sidewalks and taxi coupons.

Events Committee

Chair Janet Neal reported the Committee reviewed initial logistics for the upcoming Access Awards Luncheon. She encouraged Commissioners to be active and assist the Committee by soliciting sponsors for the event. In response to Treasurer Caracoza's question, Chairperson Benavides noted discussion on a possible donation by METRO would need to be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

After discussion, by Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

12. Update by Policy Ad-Committee on the impact of cutback and freezes in funding for services to people with profound physical, medical and developmental disabilities within Los Angeles County. (Continued from the meeting of 12/16/15) (15-4472)

Chair Steve Miller reported the Policy Committee meeting held earlier was very successful. Commissioner Peggie Reyna added at the meeting and during discussion Ms. Olyvia Rodriguez of the Chief Executive Office provided the Committee with a copy of a letter to all County Departments from the Board of Supervisors (BOS) which communicated concerns for the welfare of its developmentally disabled residents. The letter urged the State legislative leader to address the urgent needs of the developmentally disabled. She stated the Committee is very excited about their progress and are trying not to be discouraged about the long legislative process.

Commissioner John James mentioned that Ms. Rodriguez will advocate for the Commission to the State of California governor and Speaker of the House the importance of reinstating the needed funding prior to Fiscal Year 2016-17. If that does not occur, then the Committee will continue advocating utilizing the legislative process.

At the meeting, Chair Miller stated that Ms. Rodriguez encouraged the Commission to submit a letter requesting reinstatement of funds. Following discussion, on motion of 1st Vice President Janet Neal, seconded by Commissioner John James, and unanimously carried, the Policy Committee will draft a letter to the Governor, urging the State to rescind its decision to cut funding and submit the letter for review and approval by the Commission at the February 17, 2016 Commission meeting.

By Common Consent, there being no objection and unanimously carried, this item was continued to the February 17, 2016 meeting.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

13. Commissioner Announcements. (16-0395)

1st Vice President Janet Neal announced that on Monday, January 18, 2016, the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade was held. She encouraged everyone to offer their services to the community.

Commissioner Peggie Reyna requested that guest speakers submit their name or business card to the captionist prior to their presentation.

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Matters Not Posted

14. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the authority, of matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-5687)

The following item was introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting:

- 14-A. Recommendation as submitted by President Carlos Benavides: To write a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting an allocated amount for education fund. (16-0577)

On motion of Commissioner John Troost, seconded by Commissioner John James, there being no objection, this item was introduced for discussion and placed on the agenda for February 17, 2016.

Public Comment

15. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (16-0393)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

16. Adjournment for the meeting of January 20, 2016. (15-5727)

On motion of 1st Vice President Janet Neal, seconded by Commissioner Steve Miller, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. in honor of Davie Bowie and Eagles band member, Glenn Frey.