

**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
2018**

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APPOINTED MEMBERS

First District Appointees

PAUL J. PHILIPS, Chairperson
JERRY G. VELASCO

Second District Appointees

MARK BURMAN
RUBEN GONZALEZ

Third District Appointees

VACANT
VACANT

Fourth District Appointees

PAMELA ALBERS
BARRY WAITE

Fifth District Appointees

ANDREW FRIEDMAN
DARRELL GEORGE

Mayor, City of Los Angeles Appointees

ANESSA KARNEY
ANA PONCE, 2ND Vice Chairperson

CA Contract Cities Association Appointee

BOB ARCHULETA

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

SHARON SPRINGER

Independent Cities Association Appointee

VACANT

President, Los Angeles City Council Appointees

DRAKE DILLARD
JOHN A. SONEGO
JULES S. BAGNERIS, III, PH.D.,
1ST Vice Chairperson

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.

FOCUS

County Plan on Homelessness with Measure H

On July 10, 2018, the Commission invited Homeless Initiative Director Phil Ansell who presented the County Plan regarding Measure “H”, including collaboration with the 88 cities, to the Commission on Local Government Services. The County is very fortunate to have such a knowledgeable executive.

As a result of our lengthy deliberation with Mr. Ansell, the following points are of great concern to the Commission:

- Coordination and implementation of the homeless plans from the County and various cities take place at the “local” level;
- Appropriate levels of funding be allocated from Measure “H” to support the cities in implementing their homeless plans as estimated;
- Each city be allowed to hire and designate a direct homeless coordinator/liaison to ensure consistent feedback and attention to the matters at hand; and
- Measure “H” funding for new projects without penalty to those cities that have gone beyond the norm to fight against homelessness.

On August 29, 2018, a letter was submitted to the Board of Supervisors addressing homelessness in different cities. 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.

Project Lifesaver – MILO Simulator

On September 11, 2018, the Commission invited Lieutenant John Gannon, Mental Evaluation Team (MET) of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, who provided updates on the MILO training, the Bring Our Love Ones Home and the Sheriff’s Department’s Mental Evaluation Team Task Force.

Since April of 2016, the Commission has hosted several presentations from experts regarding the training necessity of first responders and their interactions with people with cognitive disabilities and mental health deficiencies in times of crisis. Implemented training by the California Regional Policing Institute (CRPI) now takes place in three counties in California and has trained approximately 450 officers and has expanded to provide training to mental health clinicians.

The three-hour training is followed by a Multiple Interactive Learning Objective (MILO) training simulator.

The Commission responded to the need of MILO simulators by sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending the purchase of a mobile MILO simulator in January 2018.

Los Angeles County's Food Redistribution Initiative through LACOE and LAUSD

On August 7, 2018, the Commission invited Maryam Shayegh, Nutrition Education Program Manager of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Ms. Shayegh highlighted global food issues including: the 57% rise of obesity rate among children and youth in a recent study from by the Corporate Public Schools and Health, which also referenced increased hunger and food insecurity, environmental impact of agriculture, treatment of animals and food waste, and food contamination that produced illnesses. In her report, she added that 70% of citizens who want to serve the military are unfit to serve and the highest leading causes of death in 2015 were heart disease and cancer.

Ms. Shayegh also reported on the Federal funding for nutrition related programs in California and the 10 partnering school districts out of 80 districts in Los Angeles County that participate in the program.

From the program, LACOE created best practices with farm-to-school products, school gardens, smart snacks and smarter lunchrooms. The requirement for grant funding was the implementation of the core interventions: local school wellness policies, standards-based resources and promotional materials, site lead teacher opportunities and paid professional development for teachers and other appropriate district staff, needs assessment and evaluation, Department of Public Social Services partnerships and CalFresh promotion.

The Commission invited Cynthia Vant Hul, Lead Recycling Trainer of Republic Services for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), and reported on LAUSD's expansion of its current recycling program which increases waste diversion, saves the District's money, trains and educates staff and students and provides follow up. The program reduced waste, reusable/ recycled compost, recovered energy from waste, and lastly disposed to landfills. She also provided information on waste characterizations by weighing trash bags. When the separation of recyclables and left over food and milk is completed, the end product reduced a bag of full milk from 30 cartons that weighed 40 pounds to a bag of 200 empty milk cartons that weighed 5 pounds. Trash in regular trash bags was also reduced from 45 to 30 pounds. Former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa introduced the City of Los Angeles' Recycling Carts Program for schools and helped the City meet its 50% goal to reduce waste. The elementary schools were provided with three in-classroom containers and 96 gallon carts for the curb side trash collection. The schools usage of curb side carts were reduced to bins.

There are elements of recycling programs being utilized in the schools such as in-classroom recycling, breakfast in the classroom (BIC), lunchtime recycling programs, after-school and summer school recycling programs, food waste and compost/organics recycling programs, cafeteria recycling program, food share and donation policy, campus recycling program, special events and community and high school recycling outreach programs.

Republic Services awarded five specially designed waste station containers to schools with excellent track records for their lunchtime recycling programs. These container awards also included \$5,000 as part of the partnership with the Milk Carton Council.

The Commission will monitor the LACOE's best practices and research alternative methods to promote better health in our schools and County overall.

Los Angeles County Hospital

The Commission reviewed the overall functionality of the LAC+USC Medical Center, the challenges the hospital faces, and any ideas/initiatives under consideration that could improve the Department's ability to serve local residents.

Mr. Enrique Ornelas, is the Chief Operating Officer, Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center (LAC+USC) of the Department of Health Services, stated that LAC+USC has been a teaching hospital in partnership with USC since 1885. In 2008, a new medical center was built with a reduced number of beds totaling 600 versus the previous 800 beds used in the General Hospital. Mr. Ornelas state that 150 additional beds are needed and patients' readmission is usually within 30-days.

The new facility includes a Clinic Tower, Diagnostic & Treatment Tower, Inpatient Tower and an Outpatient Department Services building. The General Hospital facility houses an innovative Wellness Center that includes community-based service providers. The intention of the Wellness Center is to improve and promote health, fitness, to ensure no one goes without care, and to reduce the number of patients and beds used by those entering the emergency room due to a severe/long-term illness.

Mr. Ornelas mentioned there is a shortage of wellness doctors. Mr. Ornelas also spoke about the LAC+USC collaboration with the Housing for Health Program that finds housing for the homeless and the apartment units being utilized. LAC+USC is a safety-net hospital that accepts anyone regardless of financial capability. He added, more beds are needed in the psychiatric ward because some patients may stay more than 100 days.

Dan Castillo, Chief Executive Officer in Hospital Administration of LAC-USC Medical Center also presented to the LGS Commission. He discussed the following needs at LAC-USC Medical Center: Expanding and redesigning primary care is key for the ability to accommodate new patients; building parking structure next to Primary Care Unit for easier access; creating an Ambulatory Surgery Center with easy access to parking to reduce backlog; developing a comprehensive plan for behavioral health services that integrates care across the Emergency Department, inpatient, observation, post-acute and outpatient; and addressing current shortages in select diagnostic services to fulfill inpatient and outpatient orders in a timely manner.

The Commission questioned the 30-day return of patients and requested a copy of the study regarding the number of beds needed at the Medical Center. His office will report back in 2019 with a report on the study of needed beds and discuss the nursing program behind the hospital program. The Commission agreed the perception of General Hospital/LAC+USC image needs improving and requested Mr. Ornelas to report back with its Public Relations Officer to address Commission concerns and provide an update of the of the study for needed beds and nursing program.

Regional Tourism Authority

The Commission began discussions in 2014 on the feasibility of establishing a regional tourism authority to either replace or complement the several city-based tourism agencies throughout Los Angeles County. In 2016, Winnie Fong, Project Director, Westside Cities Council of Governments (WSCCOG), and Mary Hamzoian, Economic Development Manager, City of Burbank, were invited to discuss the viability of establishing a regional, or countywide, tourism body.

Ms. Fong presented on the WSCCOG Tourism/Economic Development Strategic Initiative. WSCCOG has five member cities: Beverly Hills, Culver City, Santa Monica, West Hollywood, Los Angeles City Council Districts 5 and 11, and the unincorporated areas of the Third Supervisorial District. From 2013 to 2015, a strategic action plan for a sub-regional initiative to provide support and resources to member cities and partners was proposed to brand the Westside sub-regional tourist market and create a Westside mobile application for support. This was a collaborative effort from various partners of WSCCOG that included Westside cities' Beverly Hills Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Los Angeles City and County Chambers of Commerce, the Santa Monica and West Hollywood CVBs, and the Beverly Hills, Culver City, West Hollywood, and Venice Chambers of Commerce.

The proposed initiative culminated in the creation of a central website that linked existing sub-regional CVB websites and transit maps, and also identified specific points of interest along the METRO rail and bus lines. In 2016, WSCCOG shifted gears to other priorities, while meetings remained in place for updating websites. In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Fong stated it would be ideal to convene regularly in non-formal settings to strategize discussions around programs and activities in their region.

Ms. Mary Hamzoian, Economic Development Manager, Community Development Department of the City of Burbank, also provided a presentation and handouts highlighting the Tourism Business Improvement Districts (T-BIDs). She stated T-BIDs are self-imposed, special benefit assessment districts, designed to help leverage funds for marketing and promotional efforts for the hospitality industry. There are 10 T-BIDs in Los Angeles County that included the City of Burbank. The Burbank Hospitality Association/T-BIDs receive a 1% assessment from overnight stays in Burbank hotels with 25+ rooms along with a Transient Occupancy Tax charge of 10%. The funds received are used to partner with prominent travel and trade agencies, promote and market the City of Burbank, and provide financial contribution on behalf of local businesses to collaborate with major theme parks and other major attractions.

On February 21, 2018, a letter was submitted to the Board of Supervisors addressing tourism with a recommendation on options that the Commission explored.

- Metro (MTA) Model – a regional tourism authority to provide a countywide tourism promotion, visitor marketing and convention services that would set countywide policy, act as a clearinghouse for regional initiatives and receive funding for a countywide program;
- Covering (SCAG) Model – a regional tourism agency to support and coordinate countywide tourism promotion, visitor marketing and convention services of the city-based tourism agencies;
- Public-Private Chartered corporation (New York City) Model – the need to modernize New York’s tourism efforts led to the City’s teaming up with the private sector to create a better and more integrated marketing approach; and
- Take no action and maintain the status quo of a number of separate tourism agencies managed by various cities in the County, either directly as departments or outsourced by private nonprofits.

Cannabis Regulations

Current state law does not require local jurisdictions to utilize County Public Health Department inspection services for commercial cannabis businesses. Sales of cannabis products should be subject to the same safety standards as food facilities and those standards should mimic California Food Code where appropriate, including using experienced Registered Environmental Health inspectors. This concept has been incorporated into the relevant Los Angeles County ordinance changes in Title 8 and 11, recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Although not all counties in the State have the capacity to provide public health inspection services for cannabis businesses in their respective counties, some counties, including Los Angeles, are well prepared to take on this role. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has the expertise, capacity and desire to promote public health protection and regulatory consistency and uniformity for commercial cannabis businesses throughout the County and incorporated cities.

On January 23, 2018, a letter was submitted to the Board of Supervisors noting the Los Angeles County Public Health Department has this inspection expertise and capacity to provide public health protection in cannabis businesses and urged the Board of Supervisors to direct our lobbyist in Sacramento to pursue the appropriate legislative remedy as soon as possible.

The Commission will continue to monitor and conduct meetings; and when appropriate, include the following issues:

- Various Homeless programs and initiatives;
- Nutrition Education in schools;
- Waste Management, including food waste, lead recycling and general recycling;
- Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – Ongoing Recruitment of officers;
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works – Disposal of organics in our schools;
- Los Angeles County Health Department – Ongoing inspection of cannabis products

Redevelopment in California

Local governments across the State of California were active in the use of redevelopment-particularly for the benefits of tax increment financing. Redevelopment was a vital and important economic development tool in shaping the commercial and industrial landscape throughout California. Redevelopment activity was directly responsible for major successes in the attraction of commercial and industrial uses; increased employment, job creation, and retention; construction of low, moderate, and market rate housing; and the design, building and construction of major and minor infrastructure, educational, public facility recreation projects.

To date, the public continues to use and enjoy projects and benefits that would not have been possible without the use of redevelopment.

On December 6, 2018, a letter was submitted to the Board of Supervisors noting the consideration to undertake a study for the possible re-establishment of redevelopment as a critical effort to continue the economic success of all California's stakeholders, particularly in the areas of affordable housing, homelessness, and public/private partnerships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul J. Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul J. Phillips, 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, Los Angeles County Division Action Executive
Officer