

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSUMER AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

## Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2016

**Item 1:** Call to Order: Chair Arquelles called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

**Item 2:** Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum: The quorum requirement was met.

**Present:** Vivian Chan, Farrell Chiles, Mike Gomez, Joseph Lee, Patsy Ostroy, Mark Ramos, Ronnie Jayne, Dennis Arquelles

**Absent:** Karine Badgasarian, Ho-Jeong Eun, Susan R. Jerich, Sylvia Southerland, K.W. Tulloss, Ross Viselman

**Staff:** Brian Stiger, Espie Hernandez, Wendy Myring, Dawnesha Smith, Alex Zepeda, Amanda Hernandez

**Public:** Jerry Velasco, Jesus Gomez

**Item 3: Action Item:** Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meeting on November 19, 2015: The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Commissioner Ramos and seconded by Commissioner Gomez, under the condition that the minutes be revised to reflect the following:

- Commissioner Jayne was nominated for Vice-Chair
- Commissioner Ostroy nominated Commissioner Eun for Vice-Chair
- Commissioner Jayne nominated Commissioner Arquelles for Chair

Motion carried.

**Item 4: Action Item:** 2016 Chair and Vice-Chair Election

The Commission opened the floor for elections for the positions of 2016 Chair and Vice Chair. The following nominations were made:

Chair

Commissioner Arquelles - Accepted

Vice Chair

Commissioner Jayne - Accepted

Since there was only one nomination for each position, the Commissioners present voted unanimously to confirm the election of the two candidates for 2016 Chair and Vice Chair. The Commission officers for 2016 will be:

**Commissioner Arquelles, Chair and Commissioner Jayne, Vice Chair**

**Item 5:** Subcommittee Membership

- The Chair expressed the importance of joining a subcommittee. Director Stiger gave background information on what the roles, responsibilities and purposes are for each subcommittee group. Subcommittee membership forms were distributed to commissioners to survey their subcommittee interest. Commissioners are asked to voluntarily participate in subcommittees. The Chair will make final decisions on which Commissioners are appointed to each Subcommittee.

**Item 6: Department Update**

- Dawnnesha Smith informed the commission regarding the events the Department is hosting/participating in during National Consumer Protection Week (March 6<sup>th</sup> – March 12<sup>th</sup>).
  - Commissioner Gomez proposed that the March 17<sup>th</sup> commission meeting take place in the City of El Monte to provide the community with the opportunity to learn about the Department's services and for them to see their local government at work. He requested that in conjunction with the commission meeting, that a resource fair take place to bridge an informational gap with the citizens of the city and the Department. Commissioner Gomez also suggested that the surrounding cities of El Monte be invited to partake in the event.
- Director Stiger shared that Porter Ranch was declared in a state of emergency by the Governor. He discussed the efforts in place to assist the Porter Ranch residents/consumers. Observation of price gouging is closely being monitored. The Department will investigate complaints, provide referrals and support to the citizens of the area in this time of crisis. The commissioners were provided with sample of price gouging pamphlets that are distributed in the community when natural disasters occur. Commissioner Gomez congratulated the Department on this effort.

**Item 7: Action Item: 2016 Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission Meeting Dates**

- The Commissioners present voted unanimously to have the March 17<sup>th</sup> commission meeting in the City of El Monte in the afternoon.

**Requests Made**

- The Public Information Subcommittee to partner with DCBA's Public Education and Outreach Unit to address the details regarding the upcoming March 17<sup>th</sup> commission meeting in the City of El Monte. -Brian
- Have a resource fair for the citizens of El Monte – Commissioner Gomez
- Provide presentations regarding immigration fraud and landlord tenants to the attendees – Commissioner Gomez

**Item 8: Future Agenda Items**

- Schedule an Executive Subcommittee Meeting to address the subcommittee membership the 1<sup>st</sup> week in February 2016

**Item 11: Public Comment:**

- Jerry Velasco, City of El Monte Councilman, addressed the commission regarding the benefits of hosting the March 17<sup>th</sup> commission meeting in El Monte and echoed Commissioner Gomez's earlier comments.
- Jesus Gomez, City Manager for the City of El Monte, indicated that he would ask approval from the city council at the next meeting regarding the possibility of having the March 17<sup>th</sup> commission meeting in El Monte. He expressed gratitude and excitement in this upcoming partnership.

**Item 12: Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

***Next Meeting Date: March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.***