

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2007

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, May 14, 2007 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser
Vice President Duba
Commissioner Gravely
Commissioner Freeman
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Rodriguez
Commissioner Tanberg

Introduction of the audience followed. President Lesser welcomed Miss Cynthia Xaris Edwards, granddaughter of Commissioner Freeman, and appointed her the official timekeeper of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2007

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Tanberg, with Vice President Duba, and Commissioners Gravely and Freeman abstaining and duly carried, the minutes of April 24, 2007 were approved with the following corrections: Page 3, Goal #2, second paragraph, Tuesday in *May January*. Page 5, Legislative Committee, third sentence, ruling is ~~slowing~~ *slowly*...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lesser reported the following:

- April 27, 2007 she attended the Manhattan Beach Volunteer Recognition dinner at the Queen Mary in Long Beach.
- She participated in the Richstone Family Center Pier to Pier Walk on April 28, 2007.
- On April 29, 2007 she took part in the CROP 10K Walk in San Pedro.
- She also participated in Beach Cities Health District Steppin' Out-Weeklong 70,000+ Steps for Health on April 23-29, 2007.

(Commissioner Davalos joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.)

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- On June 7, 2007 the Commission on Human Relations will hold its Women's Leadership Conference.
- May is Skin Cancer and Stroke awareness month in California.
- The Office of Protocol and the International Visitor's Counsel both have the Commission on their list to host women delegations visiting the United States. Currently all of the visitors have been interested in homeland security and requesting to meet with the Board of Supervisors or Law Enforcement Agencies.
- The LA County Management Council will sponsor a Day at the Races on November 4, 2007 at the Santa Anita Race Track.
- Announced that due to a County Holiday the next commission meeting will be held on June 11, 2007.

PRESENTATION ON LIFE LONG: SISTERS STAYING HEALTHY

President Lesser welcomed Eleanor Brown, Founder & Director of Life Long: Sisters Staying Healthy. Ms. Brown, a resident of the Second District, founded Life Long, which is a community-based project dedicated to helping African American women over 40 maximize their health and well-being.

(Treasurer Creary joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.)

The organizations goal is to ensure access to health and well-being to all, by bringing greater attention to the issue of healthy longevity for midlife women in vulnerable communities.

Ms. Brown shared that African American women, 40 and over, are at particularly high risk for early-onset of chronic illness, such as diabetes, hypertension and cancer. Women in this range are often caught in between serving as the family caregiver for the young and the old, while neglecting their own well-being.

Life Long seeks to inform, empower and connect to women to resources to assist them in making positive behavioral changes that will contribute to longevity and quality of life. Each year Life Long holds their Annual Sisters Staying Healthy Conference and this year's theme is "Upgrade Your Memory" and will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities, 1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles 90012. For more information about the organization or conference visit their website www.life-long.org or call (310) 859-5890.

Following discussion, Vice President Duba offered Ms. Brown a complimentary expo booth at the Commission's 9th Annual LA County Health Run and Wellness Expo on September 15, 2007 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. President Lesser asked Ms. Brown to submit her request for support in writing and thanked her for an informative presentation.

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2007-08

Commissioner Jernigan reported the Committee's recommended slate of officers for 2007-08 as follows:

Charlotte Lesser – President
Ruth V. Creary, Ph.D. – Treasurer

Commissioner Jernigan announced that the Committee did not receive a Declaration of Candidacy for Vice President and that the elections will be held on June 11, 2007 and nominations from the floor will open for all positions.

President Lesser thanked the Committee for their work and declared the committee dissolved.

(Commissioner ZeBrack joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.)

APPOINT COMMISSIONER ZEBRACK AS THE COMMISSION'S VOTING MEMBER AT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETINGS

President Lesser appointed Commissioner ZeBrack as the Commission's voting member of the Domestic Violence Council meetings. She also recognized Commissioner Rodriguez and the late Commissioner Dunbar for their many years of service as voting members representing the Commission at the Domestic Violence Council meetings.

(Commissioner Pinedo joined the meeting at 10:31 a.m.)

APPROVE REGISTRATION AND RELATED EXPENSES UP TO \$1,300 TO SEND A COMMISSION DELGATE TO THE 38TH ANNUAL NACW CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY FROM JULY 11-14, 2007

On motion of Commissioner Davalos, seconded by Treasurer Creary, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved \$1,300 to cover the registration, hotel, meals and transportation expenses to send a delegate to the 38th Annual NACW Convention in Louisville, KY from July 11-14, 2007.

APPROVE THE NAME CHANGE OF THE 9TH ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK AND HEALTH EXPO FOR GIRLS AT-RISK TO THE L.A. COUNTY RUN FOR HEALTH, 9TH ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK & WELLNESS EXPO

On motion of Vice President Duba, seconded by Commissioner Jernigan, and unanimously carried, the Commission agreed to approve the name change of the "9th Annual 5K Run/Walk and Health Expo" to the "L.A. County Run for Health, 9th Annual 5K Run/Walk & Wellness Expo".

PURCHASE UP TO THREE TICKETS AT \$250 EACH FOR THE AQUATIC FOUNDATION OF METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES' 12TH ANNUAL "SALUTE TO CHAMPIONS"

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Davalos, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of five tickets totaling \$1,250 for one commissioner from each supervisorial district to attend the event on Wednesday, June 6, 2007.

PURCHASE A QUARTER PAGE AD FOR THE AQUATIC FOUNDATION OF METROPOLITAN LOS ANGELES' 12TH ANNUAL "SALUTE TO CHAMPIONS" TRIBUTE JOURNAL FOR \$250

On motion of Treasurer Creary, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, and unanimously carried, the Commission agreed to purchase a \$250 ad promoting the Commission's 5K Run/Walk in the Aquatic Foundation of Metropolitan Los Angeles' 12th Annual Salute to Champions tribute journal.

PURCHASE A QUARTER PAGE AD FOR THE CALIFORNIA BLACK WOMEN'S HEALTH PROJECT 13TH ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST GALA PROGRAM BOOK FOR \$250

On motion of Commissioner Davalos, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of a \$250 ad promoting the Commission's 5K Run/Walk to be placed in the California Health Project's 14th Anniversary Breakfast Gala Program Book.

PURCHASE UP TO 10 TICKETS AT \$35 EACH FOR THE 2007 WOMEN'S HEALTH POLICY SUMMIT

On motion of Commissioner Davalos, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the purchase of up to 10 tickets to attend the LAC Office of Women's Health 2007 Health Policy Summit on Thursday, May 24, 2007 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Hotel Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown.

PURCHASE ONE TICKET FOR \$300 TO THE ROWELL FOSTER CHILDREN'S POSITIVE PLAN HIGH TEA AT NOON

Following discussion, on motion of Treasurer Creary, seconded by Commissioner Becerra-Jones, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to purchase one ticket for \$300 to the Rowell Foster Children's Positive Plan High Tea at Noon on Saturday, May 20, 2007 at the Beverly Hills Hotel. Commissioner Becerra-Jones will attend.

APPROVAL OF THE GUIDELINES FOR DONATION OF FUNDS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND AGENCIES

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Tanberg, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, and unanimously approved, the Commission agreed to table the approval of the Guidelines for Donation of Funds to Shelters and Agencies. President Lesser asked the Committee to revisit the recommendations and bring them back with any revisions to the Commission for approval in two months.

APPROVAL TO SEND LETTER TO NBC AND CBS COMMENDING THEM FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO DON IMUS INAPPROPRIATE RADIO SHOW REMARKS

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Treasurer Creary, with Commissioner Freeman abstaining, and duly carried the Commission approved to send letters to NBC and CBS commending them for their immediate action in response to Don Imus inappropriate radio show remarks. President Lesser will check with County Counsel on the content of the letters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Domestic Violence Committee: Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the DV Committee is still working on the "Cut It Out Project".

Gender Equity: Commissioner Davalos will schedule a committee meeting soon.

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Jernigan referenced a news paper article "Are Moms Changing Congress" that was given to her by Commissioner Gravely.

Education Committee: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that there is an existing \$5,000 nursing scholarship for County employees pursuing a nursing degree. The ASVAB career assessment test will be offered for free to the girls in probation camps.

Media Committee: Commissioner Freeman thanked the Committee and staff for their hard work in planning a successful luncheon. She shared the center spread of luncheon photos in the April 2007 County Digest. Also, she requested the last set of Media Committee minutes from Commissioner Pinedo. The committee will meet soon to start publicity for the upcoming 5K Run/Walk.

5K Run/Walk Committee: Vice President Duba announced that the 5K Committee will meet today at 12:30 p.m. following the Commission meeting. On May 10, 2007, Chair Duba, Vice Chair Tafarella, Amjad Khan, Race Director and Commission Staff met with Philip Steinman, Director/Producer of a documentary on the late Ernie Van Leeuwen and his wife Nina Leeuwen to view a portion of the documentary and discuss the 5K Run/Walk.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mary Griffith thanked the Commission for treating their guests with dignity and respect.
- Geneviève Clavreul distributed two handouts listing State statistics on health care indicators and pregnancy related deaths by race/ethnicity. She also spoke on the CAO's decision to reclassify the Registered Nurses position and encouraged the Commission to review AB1201 regarding direct care registered nurses.
- Rev. Dr. Lorna Crosse shared her work with Jewish Watch and has recruited two salons for the "Cut It Out Program". She also invited the Commission to visit the Beverly Hills Community Theatre at La Cienega Park.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Creary attended the following community events:

- Respect Me, Women's Press Conference at the LA Sentinel on April 24, 2007.
- On April 25 -29, 2007, the National Business Conference for Women of Color in Lake Mead, NV.
- The Beverly Hills West Link, Inc. Jazz Odyssey Fundraiser, honoring Jazz Legend Ernie Andrews, special guest artist Barbara Morrison at the Skirball Cultural Center on April 29, 2007.
- Funeral services for the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender McDonald's at Second Baptist Church on April 30, 2007.
- Johnnie Cochran Brain Tumor Center/Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Fundraising Gala at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel on May 3, 2007 and the Nkwen Scholarship Fundraiser at the Proud Bird on May 12, 2007.

Commissioner Gravely attended the Women at Work open house on May 10, 2007.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):

There were none

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. in honor of mothers.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Charlotte Lesser, President
Reiko Duba, Vice President
Ruth Creary, Ph.D., Treasurer
Yolanda Becerra-Jones

Karin Davalos
Peggy J. Freeman
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Michele Pinedo
Olivia Rodriguez
Bobbi Jean Tanberg
Elise ZeBrack

EXCUSED

Janet Mummey, Esq

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Sandra Barbee, Rhonda Rangel, Nyla Jefferson, and Twila Kerr Executive Office