



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 374-A
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lgsc.lacounty.gov>**

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

9:30 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-4168)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance. (14-2556)

Chairperson Mark Burman called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta led the Pledge of Allegiance and Emma De Jesus, Staff, conducted the roll call noting a quorum. Commissioner Waite joined the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Present: Chairperson Mark Burman, 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta,
2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, Commissioner Jules
Bagneris III, Commissioner Andrew Friedman, Commissioner
Azita Fatheree, Commissioner Jesse Gabriel, Commissioner
Laurence M. Kaplan and Commissioner Barry Waite

Absent: Commissioner Andrew Westall

Excused: Commissioner Rodrigo Guerra Jr.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of June 3, 2014. (14-2558)**

On motion of 1st Vice Chairperson Bob Archuleta, seconded by 2nd Vice Chairperson Jess Talamantes, this item was approved

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Recommendation to take off calendar: Discussion and review of the draft letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Commission's recommendations on Tow Truck Regulations. (14-2372)

By Common Consent, there being no objection, this item was taken off calendar.

III. REPORTS

3. Chair's report on various items for the months of July and August 2014. (14-2559)

Chairperson Burman introduced Azita Fatheree, newly appointed Commissioner by City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

4. Staff report on various items for the months of July and August 2014. (14-2561)

There was no report given.

5. Presentation by William Hodgman, Assistant District Attorney, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, on the outcome of the Los Angeles County Court Closures and Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 (AB 109 & AB 117) (Continued from the meeting of June 4, 2013). (13-2532)

Mr. Hodgman, Assistant District Attorney, reported on the following:

- **The American Civil Liberties Union is suing San Bernardino, Riverside and Fresno Counties for being overcrowded. Every county in California can be subjected to a similar lawsuit.**
- **United States Department of Justice is presently speaking to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department regarding the overcrowded jails.**
- **The collateral impact is the collaboration of all the criminal justice agencies working together to expand alternative sentencing programs. However, because of the lack of meaningful jail time the offenders rather do time than receive alternative sentencing that is designed to help offenders.**
- **There is no workable definition for recidivism therefore no data has been compiled. Existing data collection systems are outdated and do not communicate with each other. The District Attorney's office has hired a new Chief to improve their system.**
- **Officers are being trained to handle mental health offenders using best practices from Miami's Dade County. Diverting the mentally ill to another facility is being considered. On October 7, 2014 the District Attorney's office will go before the Board of Supervisors with an action**

plan to address the incarcerated mentally ill.

- **The Sheriff's Training Academy will be using the Critical Incident Training Model that will reduce excessive use of force and civil suits. This course will also be offered to officers.**

6. Discussion on the possibility of establishing a regional tourism authority as recommended by Commissioner Larry Kaplan at the meeting of June 3, 2014. (14-2607)

Commissioner Kaplan reported that Co-Chairs Mickey Kantor and Austin Buetner of the Los Angeles 2020 Commission cited a series of 10 recommendations in their report to improve governance of the City of Los Angeles. One of the recommendations is to establish a Regional Tourism Authority. Although the 2020 Commission suggests a model to operate the Authority, Commissioner Kaplan suggested a regional approach by having a convener that focuses on marketing Los Angeles County and the cities it encompasses. Commissioner Gabriel suggested obtaining statistics of what cities in Los Angeles County do tourist visit and indicated that establishing a regional tourism entity is a great study for Local Governmental Services Commission.

(Commissioner Waite excused himself from the meeting at 10:48 a.m.)

IV. PRESENTATION

7. Discussion on the use of "Body Farms" within Los Angeles County as requested by Chair Burman. (14-3357)

Mr. Ed Winter, Assistant Chief of the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner, thanked 1st Chairperson Archuleta for his assistance with the 52 deceased and unidentified veterans left in the morgue and waiting for burial services at the veteran's cemetery. Some of the deceased had been waiting 14 months to be buried. 1st Chairperson Archuleta assisted in rendering 18 of the deceased a full Military Funeral Honor Ceremony which included folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. Mr. Winter explained that the Coroner's Office allows 20 days to examine bodies however, it is mandated by law that the Coroner advocate for the deceased when identification is unavailable.

Lieutenant Elissa Fleak, Special Operations of the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner, provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on how Body Farms would operate within Los Angeles County. She defined the Body Farm as a research facility where human decomposition can be

studied in a variety of climates. There are seven unique microclimates in Los Angeles County and having a Body Farm in those climates would assist the Coroner fill the gap in determining the time of death of a decomposed body.

Chairperson Burman indicated that the Universities of California Los Angeles and Southern California support the implementation of a local Body Farm and are willing to donate funds towards the implementation and maintenance of the Farm.

Lieutenant Elissa Fleak also reported there is only one dog from the Cadaver Dog Program that is certified by the State of California and the Federal Government. The dog, Indiana Bones' level of training has been the only tool of which to find human remains once the general location has been identified. At 10 years old, Indiana has found over 300 bodies. She also reported that Indiana is nearing retirement and a replacement is needed.

After discussion, Chairperson Burman thanked Mr. Winter and Lieutenant Fleak for their very revealing presentation and invited them back to present additional information about the Coroner's Office concerns therefore this item will be continued as an item on the October, November and December 2014 agendas. Chairperson Burman proposed that the Commission submit recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in support of the Coroner's various concerns by January 2015.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-2562)

Chairperson Burman informed the Commission that in the months of October, November, and December the Commission will hear additional information regarding the Coroner's Office and the possible implementation of a "body farm" in Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Bagneris also suggested writing a letter to the Board of

Supervisors informing them of the crisis occurring in Los Angeles County as it relates to AB109 and realignment.

Public Comment

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-2563)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

10. Adjournment for the meeting of September 9, 2014. (14-2564)

On motion of Commissioner Laurence Kaplan, seconded by Commissioner Jesse Gabriel, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.