

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
Conference Room 739
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Item 1: Call to Order Chair Jan Perry called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Item 2: Roll call and Confirmation of Quorum Roll call was taken and the quorum requirement was met.

Present: Jan Perry, Jozef Essavi, Diane L. Araujo, Kerry Doi, Rose Acosta-Yonai, Angela Gibson, Mark J. Robertson, W. Steven Temple, Raymond Bishop, Sharon E. Brown, Cindy Allen, Anthony Williams, Lucia Moreno-Linares, Frieda Hovsepian, Ann Carpenter

Absent: Denis Quinonez, Gene Hale, Lisa Miller, Randy C. Bowers, Anna Wu, Tyrone Hampton, Christine Hershey

Staff Present: Joel Ayala, Amanda Hernandez, David Diaz, Chavon Smith, Joseph Nicchitta, Kimberly Briggs, Christian Olmos, Wason Fu, Fernando Nieto, Rafael Carbajal

Public: Janine Genovese, Lillian Conroe

Item 3: Approval of Small Business Commission meeting minutes

Commissioner Carpenter moved to approve the Small Business Commission meeting minutes for April 18, 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion passed.

Item 4: DCBA Staff Introductions

Joseph Nicchitta, Interim Director and Rafael Carbajal, Chief Deputy of Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA), introduced themselves to the commission, providing the commission with a brief background about their career. Mr. Nicchitta advised the commission of the direction DCBA envisions, which consists of economic development and consumer services separating. Rafael Carbajal will now oversee economic development and Joel Ayala will oversee consumer services. The commission introduced newly appointed Commissioner Frieda Hovsepian to the commission. The commission briefly went around the table and introduced themselves to the newly appointed Commissioner, Interim Director and the Chief Deputy.

Item 5: Business Registration Motion: Update – Wason Fu

Wason Fu, Senior Policy Analyst for DCBA, provided the commission with an update on the Business Registration Motion. Mr. Fu explained the results from past round table events and how the feedback received from communities were not as expected, therefore DCBA placed the roundtable events on hold to re-evaluate the strategies DCBA had in place. The feedback that was received was very well heard, as business owners were unhappy with the proposed fee. Mr. Fu illustrated the

impact this motion can have to help small businesses in the unincorporated by retrieving data to better understand trends and the needs of the small businesses. DCBA has decided to bring on a consultant to reengage with the community and host the upcoming roundtable events. DCBA is looking for different feedback, such as, what small businesses would like to get out of registering as a small business, should some businesses be exempt, is the fee a burden to small businesses, and any other feedback that can help provide a direction for business registration. DCBA and the county consider this fee to be cost recovery and reviewing ways to dissolve the fee.

Item 6: ISD Procurement Data: Discussion Item

The commission discussed information they would like to see from ISD regarding small businesses. The commission expressed great interest in receiving data that would show how much each county department is granting small businesses in contracts. The commission strongly agrees that this data should not only include funds being granted, but also include: Breakdown of categories of spending, what departments are buying, how much money is being granted and the size of the business receiving the contract. The commission would like to identify ways to streamline the registration process and how to be granted contracts for services rather than goods. Essentially the commission would like some transparent data to better understand how the county departments are using their money and who is being granted the contracts.

Item 7: Office of Small Business Update

Fernando Nieto from DCBA's Office of Small Business provided a handed out to the Commission referencing stats for 2018 fiscal year. The Statistics included: the number of contracts awarded to local small businesses (LSBE) and the total amount by quarter for the 2018 fiscal year. Mr. Nieto went on to explain how the PTAC event went that was hosted in La-Verne, explaining the success of the event. Mr. Nieto also discussed Assembly Bill 4.62 and supporting the bill. The Amendments would expand preference to Social Enterprises (SE) and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE), which would help SE and DVBE compete for contracts. As of June 27, 2018, the bill is sitting with the senate. Mr. Nieto went on to explain better data will be coming soon with breakdown of grants to small business, as ISD is working in collaboration with DCBA to help provide this data.

Item 8: Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner Carpenter: Discuss different type of outreach to meet technology companies for procurement.
- Commissioner Carpenter: How to reach unreachable small businesses.
- Commissioner Gibson: Update on round table events.
- Commissioner Doi: How Department of Public Works is planning to meet 25% threshold.
- Commissioner Bishop: Resolution to address business resolution program.

Item 9: Public Comment

Janine Genovese from Small Business Administration, provided an update regarding a resource Union Bank, Small Business Administration, and LA trade tech are implementing. The goal is to bring a technology resource center aimed to help women and minority owned businesses with technology, starting up businesses, and scaling businesses. The program would like to partner with the county and metro, ultimately utilizing the county and metro for resources to better aid the targeted groups of people.

Item 10: Adjournment: The Small Business Commission meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.