



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis
Mark Ridley-Thomas
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Room 739 – 7th Floor
500 W Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Item 1: Call to Order: Co-Chair Hampton called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

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

Present

- 1st District:** Kerry Doi, Andrew Rodriguez
- 2nd District:** Mark Robertson, Steven Temple, Ky Chueon Kim
- 3rd District:** Christine Hershey, Lisa Miller, Todd Flora, Amy Ablakat
- 4th District:** None
- 5th District:** Josef Essavi, Tyrone Hampton, Frieda Hovsepian, Anthony Williams

Absent

- 1st District:** Diane Araujo, Rose Acosta-Yonai
- 2nd District:** Angela Gibson
- 3rd District:** Sharon Brown
- 4th District:** Cindy Allen, Lucia Moreno-Linares, Anna Wu, Ann Carpenter, Patrick Wilson
- 5th District:** Onnik Mehrabian

Staff Joseph Nicchitta, Rafael Carbajal, Azusena Favela, Christian Olmos, Chavon Smith, David Diaz, Francisco Mendez

Public None

Item 3: Approval of Small Business Commission Minutes

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the minutes of the Small Business Commission (SBC) meeting for October 9, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 4: 2020 Elections

Commissioner Robertson, Chair of the 2020 Nominating Committee, entertained a motion to present a slate of candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Small Business Commission. Commissioner Flora moved to accept the slate of candidates. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion passed unanimously. Per Appendix G, Nominating Committee Chair Robertson called for a roll call vote that would approve the slate consisting of Commissioner Doi and Commissioner Temple as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The vote passed as follows:

Ayes – Andrew Rodriguez, Mark Robertson, Steven Temple, Ky Chueon Kim, Christine Hershey, Lisa Miller, Todd Flora, Amy Ablakat, Josef Essavi, Tyrone Hampton, Frieda Hovsepian, Anthony Williams

Abstain – Kerry Doi

Item 5: 2020 Committee Interest Cards

Francisco Mendez informed the Commission that the submission deadline for Commissioners to express an interest in joining a Small Business Committee has been set for January 17, 2020. All interested Commissioners will fill out an interest card, which will be forwarded to the Commission Chair, who will then elect serving members and Committee Chairs.

Item 6: Introduction of Azusena Favela, Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) Deputy Director of the Economic Development Division

Joseph Nicchitta, Director of DCBA, introduced Azusena Favela, the new Deputy Director of the Economic Development Division. After Ms. Favela provided the Commission with her background and professional experience, she was welcomed by the SBC.

Item 7: High Cost Loans – Office of Small Business (OSB)

Jessica Mireles provided information and updates on high cost loans, their trends and impacts on consumers and the small business community, and active methods that Los Angeles County is utilizing to curb the reliance on these loans by small businesses and residents.

Item 8: Entrepreneur Center – OSB

Ernesto Bobadilla, Business Development Manager for OSB provided information on the soon to be launched East Los Angeles Entrepreneur Center. The center, scheduled to open in January, will provide free services that assists perspective and existing business owners to successfully open and grow their businesses in Los Angeles County.

Item 9: Committee Updates

Due to time constraints, the Committee updates were postponed to a future commission meeting.

Item 10: OSB Update

Due to time constraints, the OSB update was postponed to a future commission meeting.

Item 11: Department Update

Due to time constraints, the Department update was postponed to a future commission meeting.

Item 12: Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Flora suggested the creation of a set of principles that would be used to establish a county sponsored microloan program. Commissioner Flora is to draft and present these principles at a future committee meeting.

Item 13: Public Comment

There were no members of the public present to provide a public comment.

Item 14: Adjournment

Commissioner Essavi moved to adjourn the Small Business Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robertson. Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.