

**Los Angeles County  
Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission  
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 19, 2015

**Item 1:**       **Call to Order:** The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 10:36 a.m.

**Item 2:**       **Roll Call Confirmation of Quorum:**

**Present:**     Dennis Arguelles, Vivian Chan, Farrell J. Chiles, Mike Gomez, Ronnie Jayne, Ho-Jeong Eun, Joan Ostroy, Mark Ramos, Sylvia Southerland, Ross Viselman

**Absent:**       Karine Bagdasarian, Joyce Ayvazi, K.W. Tulloss, Susan Jerich

**Staff Present:** Brian Stiger, Espie Hernandez, Armando Nogal

**Public:**       None

The quorum requirement was met with the Commissioners present.

**Item 3:**       The Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission Minutes for September 17, 2015 were approved with amendments by the commissioners present.

**Item 4:**       **Subcommittee Updates**

**Legislative Committee**

Commissioner Southerland informed the Commission of its approved committee's purpose and Goals:

*Purpose:*

*To ensure the protection of Los Angeles County Consumers by monitoring and proposing improvements to existing legislation and recommend new policies and or legislation as societal needs evolve.*

*Goals:*

- *Support the Department's Public Policy Unit by reviewing emerging issues and trends that affect Los Angeles County consumers.*
- *Recommending and prioritizing relevant public policy topics for the Los Angeles County Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission*

The next Legislative Committee meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 10 AM

Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 10 AM

Commissioner Southerland also indicated that it would leave it to the full commission to decide which future items the Legislative Committee to look into.

### **Public Information Committee**

Commissioners Jayne shared that at the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the committee revised the purpose of Committee that was originally drafted at the July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- To identify, facilitate and enhance public outreach and dialogue to the diverse communities we serve

The commissioners also reviewed and discussed the draft goals:

- Establish a database to disseminate information to consumers
- Identify and develop a network of key people in the community, organizations, clubs, partnerships, etc. that can help DCBA disseminate information.
- Develop a Department grid line
- Develop a consumer survey to identify interest/demographics in the community

Additionally, Commissioner Jayne indicated that the committee has recommended a number of ideas to enhance the Department's outreach efforts such as "gridline" which lists key people in the community, community events and a calendar of events. Commissioner Gomez has volunteered to reach out to the City of El Monte and hold an Advisory Commission meeting at their City facilities.

Director Stiger indicated that National Consumer Protection Week is coming up in February and it would be an ideal opportunity to use this event as a marketing tool to promote the commission and Department services. There is sufficient lead time to secure a location. In May of this year, the commission held its meeting at California State University at Northridge (CSUN) and it was very successful.

### **Deferred Action Committee for DACA/DAPA I and II**

Commissioner Chan indicated that the goal of this committee is to get the message to the intended audience who are eligible to take advantage of DACA and it must be done in a certain fashion. The committee will be meeting often during the 2016 on accomplishing this task. It is unknown why hundreds of eligible young immigrants have not filed for the DACA Program. It is also important to protect the public from unscrupulous individuals making fraudulent claims. Commissioner Campos shared that he would willing to share this information to the union members that he represents.

### **Item 5: Department Update**

Director Stiger, welcomed the Commissioners and provided his update.

1. Department staff have scheduled a New Laws for 2016 Training on December 3, 2015. This training will include new laws that affect consumer and businesses. Commissioners are invited and may contact Espie Hernandez if they to attend the training.
2. The Board of Supervisors has adopted and established a new Minimum Wage Program. The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs will be responsible for administering and running this program effective July 1, 2016. This new ordinance calls for subpoena powers and will impact businesses that have 25 or more employees. The Department will be responsible for enforcing the new minimum wage and will work with agencies at the Federal and State levels. The Department has established a transition team to implement the program by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. The Department will receive 5 new positions in the current year and 6 additional positions in the following fiscal year based on the workload. The funds to run the program come from the General Fund.

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**Item 5: Department Update (Continued)**

The Department will partner with community based agencies to broaden its reach to the hard to reach communities who generally distrust government. It is believed that businesses maybe violating the law because they don't know the law. The Board requires quarterly reports on the status of this program.

**Item 6: Nomination of 2016 Commission Chair and Vice-Chair**

Director Stiger indicated that elections will take place at the January 2016 commission meeting and elected Chair and Vice Chair must be present during the nominations.

Commissioner Jayne nominated Commissioner Eun however he respectfully declined the nomination.

Commissioner Jayne was nominated for Chair. She accepted the nomination however, cannot be present at the next commission meeting since she will be out of town.

Nominations will be continued at the January 2016 meeting since not all commissioners are present.

**Item 7: Future Agenda Items**

- Women confront many obstacles to get their credit reports rectified after divorce or establishing credit. Is there a process that will help?
- Prescription Drugs/Specialty Drugs – Can patients ask their doctors to prescribe generic drugs?
- An update on the Wage Enforcement Program
- Information on intercommunication of Commission Sub-committees
- Rent Control at Trailer Parks. Rents have been raised 100% forcing people out (El Monte). Will the County step in?
- Telemarketing Scams – What role does DCBA have?

**Item 8: Public Comment - None**

**Item 9: Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.**

A motion to hold the next meeting on **January 21<sup>st</sup>** at 10:30 a.m. was supported by Commission Viselman and seconded by Commissioner Eun. Location to be determined.