

Los Angeles County

Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2016

Item 1: Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

Item 2: Welcome

The Chair welcomed the general public and emphasized how pleased he was to have the community see their local government at work, learn about the services of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, and the presence of the resource fair, which gives the community increased access services.

Item 3: Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum: The quorum requirement was not met with the commissioners present.

Present: Dennis Arguelles, Vivian Chan, Farrell J. Chiles, Ho-Jeong Eun, Mike Gomez, Susan Jerich,
Joan P. Ostroy, K.W. Tulloss

Absent: Karine Bagdasarian, Joseph Lee, Mark Ramos, Sylvia Southerland, Ross Viselman, Ronnie Jayne

Staff: Keven Chavez, Espie Hernandez, Stephanie Holloway, Cathy Mikuni, Brian Stiger

Public: David Riccitiello, Charles Turner, Wyatt Gentle-Storm, W. Howard Pratt, H. Irvin, Oscar Akanno

Item 4: Opening Remarks

The Chair provided a brief history of the commission and the role and responsibilities of its members. Each commissioner introduced themselves and the supervisorial district they represented.

Item 5: Approval of Minutes for the Consumer Affairs Advisory Commission Meeting

- **May 19, 2016:** The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Commissioner Chan and seconded by Commissioner Tulloss. Motion carried.
- **July 14, 2016:** The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Commissioner Gomez and seconded by Commissioner Ostroy. Motion carried.

Item 6: Department of Consumer and Business Affairs Programs

Director Brian Stiger provided an overview of the programs and services of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs including: Consumer Counseling, Mediation, Small Claims Counseling, Investigations, Small Business Services, the Wage Enforcement Program, and the Center for Financial Empowerment. Director Stiger also discussed the recent board motion to create a County licensing requirement for immigration consultants, and DCBA's involvement in the proposed ordinance- which will include education and outreach.

Item 7: Financial Fitness Tips

Stephanie Holloway, of DCBA's Education and Outreach division, delivered a presentation on Financial Fitness. The presentation "Simple Tips to Help You Gain Financial Capability" included information about setting financial goals, debt

management, and making responsible credit decisions.

- Commission Eun recommended that the presentation be uploaded to the department website and similar platforms, such as YouTube.
- Commissioner Gomez is interested in a financial fitness program that is specifically developed for women, particularly women who experience financial challenges following divorce.

Item 8: Overview of Landlord/Tenants Rights and Responsibilities

DCBA Counselor Cathy Mikuni provided an overview of the most common questions the Department receives regarding landlord/tenant issues. These areas included evictions, security deposit refunds, building and safety issues, rental and lease agreements, and information about rent control.

Item 9: Public Comment

- David Riccitiello, District 2's Senior Deputy for Economic Development, recognized the commission for the services and shared some of the priorities for Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas including economic development, identifying resources to resolve homelessness, redevelopment of unused County property, and strategies to increase employment opportunities.
- Community member Oscar Akanno thanked the department and the commission for the information and presentations provided. Asked for information about starting a business, and the required licenses. Commissioners referred him to DCBA counselors for additional resources.

Item 10: Future Agenda Items

- Commissioner Gomez requested a discussion item on the accessibility of healthy food for people with diabetes.

Item 11: Closing Remarks

Item 12: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.