

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

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KELLIE HAWKINS
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MINUTES

December 7, 2007
City Hall Conference Room
Room 1050, City Hall

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Leslie A. Orticke, President
Katie L. Buckland, J.D., Vice President
Rocio L. Córdoba, J.D.
Dominique DiPrima
Helen H. Han
Liliana Pérez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Susan Berke Fogel, J.D.

STAFF

Kellie Hawkins
Anne Dunn
Rayshell Chambers
Lisa Chandler
Hannah Farley
Julie Heifetz
Veronica Hendrix
Monica Ordonez
Carolyn Reed
Van Tran (Human Relations Commission Staff, taking the Minutes.)

GUEST

Abby Liebman

I. CALL TO ORDER

(This is the last meeting for Commission President Orticke)

Commission President Orticke called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

She expressed her thanks to the Commission for giving her the opportunity to participate in many different programs that enhance the lives of women and girls in the community. She also commended the staff for doing an excellent job during her term as President. She suggested changing the name of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Los Angeles City Women's Commission.

(The meeting was turned over to Vice President Buckland.)

Vice President Buckland expressed her appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Orticke for her hard work during her term as President.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2007

The minutes of November 9, 2007 were unanimously approved.

III. PRESENTATION

Abby Liebman, Liebman & Associates –Assessment of the Commission

Vice President Buckland introduced Abby Liebman, Liebman and Associates.

Ms. Liebman made her presentation on possible recommendations on the structure and vision of the Commission per a request from Mayor Villaraigosa. She led the discussion by asking the Commissioners about their direction and goals for the Commission.

Commissioner Han stated that she serves the business community by linking what the Commission is doing with the business community. She also works on strategic planning to build the organization and allow it to grow with business and non-profit organizations. Commissioner Han stated that the Commission has never had a large voice or impact and she wants to create that influence and impact so that the Commission doesn't have to worry about resources.

Vice President Buckland questioned whether or not the Commission should be a direct services provider. She felt that the Commission has lost its voice in the community because of the diffused activities that the Commission takes on. YWAR is an outstanding program, but she feels that it really shouldn't be the focus of the Commission. She wants the Commission to focus more on policy and advocacy.

Commissioner Pérez stated that the Commission should be the bridge to opportunities from different agencies. She said that many people are not familiar with the organizations and services available to them.

Commissioner Córdoba stated that she is working on behalf of women and girls in advocacy to analyze all the aspects that affect the lives of women and girls. She wants to provide valuable advice and counsel to city leaders. What are the needs of the City's women and girls? She mentioned having the Commission serve as a resource and bridge, determining what the policy priorities are and looking at policy and public affairs.

Commissioner DiPrima stated that the participation of the African American community is of great concern to her. As part of the media, she is able to discuss with people their concerns through her radio program. She stated that she is interested in policy and in making it more relevant to women's lives and making a difference in women's lives outside of City Hall. She would like to increase the Commission's visibility so that people know what the Commission does. She wants people to be able to turn to and know that the Commission on the Status of Women provides services to them, including policy making.

Ms. Liebman stated that the Commission would determine what the needs are of women within the City structure and the community. She feels that it is critically important that Commissioners have access to data in terms of surveys, statistics, any mode that determines what the role of the Commission should be.

Ms. Liebman stated that in 1987, the Commission surveyed female City employees, both full and part time, to prioritize addressing the needs of women. The mission of the Commission is to look at the needs of women in City government and in the community. Working internally will eventually lead to external change in the community.

Ms. Liebman stated that her report is due on January 15, 2008. She provided her telephone number and e-mail address to the Commissioners. Ms. Liebman stated that she invites each of the Commissioners to meet with her to elaborate further on points that they have made.

IV. NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS

Elections to be held at the January 10, 2008 Commission meeting

Commissioner Fogel was nominated as President. Commissioner Buckland serves as Vice President, but a suggestion was made by Commissioner Pérez that a woman of color be placed in the Vice President position. After discussion, Commissioner Buckland was nominated to a second term as Vice President. The nominations were unanimously approved.

V. DISCUSSION ON MATTERS FOR COMMISSION ACTION

Project Five-O Conference – March 2008 – Request for Commission to serve on planning committee

Executive Director Hawkins (ED Hawkins) stated that the conference will take place on March 12, 2008. About 300 people are expected to attend. The committee will meet once a month so that it does not take too much time from staff; it is not a major investment of time or money for the Commission. The Commission's participation on the planning committee was unanimously approved.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Update on Executive Director and staff activity throughout the month

ED Hawkins reported that she has attended several City Council meetings. She met with Budget and Finance Chair, Council member Bernard Parks and Vice Chair, Council member Wendy Greuel. Council member Greuel wants to be provided with a frame work of the Commission.

ED Hawkins stated that the YWAR Conference will be held in February 2008. She stated that she will meet with the City Controller Laura Chick for a one on one meeting regarding grant funds, specifically the YWAR program's grant. ED

Hawkins wants to have a conversation with Council member Cardenas to make sure the Commission gets the grant funding.

ED Hawkins informed the Commissioners that she will be on vacation from December 31, 2007 to January 4, 2008. Veronica Hendrix will be in charge during her absence.

VII. LEGISLATION

Discussion of Commission action on the following bills:

H.R. 4054 & s. 2347 – Prevention through Affordable Access Act. These measures will amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to restore and protect access to discount drug prices for university-base safety-net clinics.

Staff recommends support

H.R. 20- Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act. Introduced by Rep. Bobby Rush on January 4, 2007, this legislation would provide research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis. This bill passed in the House of Representatives on October 15, 2007. On October 16, 2007, it was received in the Senate and read twice. Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Staff recommends support.

Legislation was not discussed due to time constraints.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Young Women From Adversity to Resiliency Program (YWAR) – Update on Conference and Evaluation

Ms Ordonez distributed the mid year and final program evaluation reports to the Commissioners.

Ms. Monica Ordonez reported on the upcoming YWAR Healthy Relationships Conference. She stated that the conference is scheduled for February 7, 2008. By January 15, 2008, the Commission should receive the money from the grant to hold the conference. Speakers for the conference will be free of charge. The buses to transport the student to the conference will probably be provided by council members; three buses have been confirmed. Conference vendors and catering have been set.

Ms. Hannah Farley will be in charge of the budget for the YWAR Conference.

IX. REPORT BY COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF IN THE COMMUNITY REGARDING ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATED IN SINCE LAST MEETING

None

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.