



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION



Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 10:00-11:54 am

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Small Business Commissioners (6): Ronda Jackson, Mott Smith, Jesse Torres, Charles Lew, Gail Lara, Roslyn Simpson

City of Los Angeles Representatives: Hannah Levien, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Kwesi Hanciles

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Jackson.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. The approval of meeting minutes for the July 17, 2020 meeting has been tabled for the next scheduled meeting. Motion to table the approval of meeting minutes made by Commissioner Smith. Motion is Seconded by Commissioner Torres.

3. Public Comment

a. No Public Comment.

4. Workplan

- a. Commissioner Jackson suggests that a survey be created by the Small Business Commission to get in-depth information on the impacts of Covid-19 on individual businesses in the last 6-9 months. Commissioner Jackson also suggests that we explore resources within the city to see if the city can partner with small businesses. Commissioner Lara agrees that providing government contracts to small businesses in the city will help stimulate business and the economy as a whole.
- b. Commissioner Smith suggests that we also find a way to make stimulus information readily available to inquiring small businesses since lack of information on these programs has been an ongoing theme throughout the pandemic. Commissioner Lew further elaborates on this topic providing testimony from the majority of small business owners that he works with.
- c. Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Torres agree that the commission moves forward with creating a survey that will allow them to have a clear understanding of the scope of small businesses in the city to further develop long-term and short-term goals. Since the pandemic has altered so many factors contributing to the business in the city currently.
- d. Commissioner Torres suggests making pandemic relief a priority since other objectives can't be met until the issues that the pandemic has caused have been solved. He also suggests that at the next SBC meeting that there is a presentation from LAEDC who is specifically doing economic assessments to have a better understanding of the city of Los Angeles's current economic state.
- e. Mrs. Rodriguez suggests that the EWDD/ Small business commission collaborate with the Office of Finance to distribute the survey with its monthly newsletter. Commissioner Lew inquires if there is a budget for other resources that can be used to get the survey to small businesses across the city, such as an Instagram survey Mrs. Rodriguez will follow up with options on using social media to generate more information on the current state of small businesses in the city of Los Angeles.
- f. Commissioner Jackson and Mrs. Rodriguez suggest that the commission starts on the survey now to be most efficient in getting the survey in the hands of these business owners and getting them the assistance they need to sustain and ultimately thrive.
- g. Commissioner Lara places emphasis on the importance of being able to find out what these small business relationships are with banking institutions and if they have developed a relationship? Commissioners agree that a question addressing relationships with banking institutions should be included in the survey.

- h. Commissioner Torres suggests there is a question on the survey that pertains to what type of stimulus would if any be best for their business.
- i. Commissioner Smith poses that there should be a question in the survey on rent deferment as its important to understand the effects of such on the small business in the city.

5. Nominations

Mrs. Rodriguez opens the discussion of nominees for Board Chair and Vice-Chair of the Small Business Commission. Voting will take place at the next Small Business Commission meeting.

- a. Commissioner Lew nominates Commissioner Jackson for Board Chair. Motion is seconded by Commissioner Smith
- b. Commissioner Lew nominates Commissioner Smith for Vice-Chair.

ADJOURNMENT

October 28th, 2020 11:54 AM