



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
Thursday, November 18th, 2021
1:00-2:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Small Business Commissioners (7): Ronda Jackson, Mott Smith, Jesse Torres, Charles Lew, Gail Lara, Roslyn Simpson, and Elise Swanson

City of Los Angeles Representatives: Robert Moore, Jacqueline Rodriguez, and Kwesi Hanciles

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles Small Business Commission (LASBC) was held virtually and via teleconference on Thursday, November 18th, 2021, and was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Commissioners Chair Ronda Jackson.

2. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

3. Findings to continue Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB361

Commissioner Smith makes a motion in accordance to AB361, which states that the state of emergency covid-19 pandemic poses a threat to the health and safety of those attending the Small Business Commission meetings therefore the Small Business Commission should continue to meet via teleconference, motion seconded by Commissioner Swanson. Motion approved

No Public Comment

4. Workplan

Mr. Hanciles presents attachments from the complete meeting packet and elaborates on the information in the workplan infographic as well as feedback from the BusinessSource, YouthSource, and WorkSource center directors' meetings.

Mrs. Rodriguez provides background information on the origin of the BusinessSource, YouthSource, and WorkSource center directors' monthly meetings as well as the purpose of the meeting. These meetings are meant to create synergy and expand the networks of all centers.

Commissioner Swanson gives feedback on some of the challenges that the core industries are facing in the Harbor area. The challenge of greatest concern is the lack of employees or labor force as a whole in the Harbor area. She is working with the WorkSource and YouthSource centers to help find a solution to this issue.

Commissioner Swanson suggests there should be a hotline or newsletter that alerts business as soon as possible “hot button” issues like the City vaccine mandate arises.

Commissioner Lara comments on the issues that are being encountered by businesses in the San Fernando Valley region. Similar to the issues discussed in the Harbor area, the San Fernando Valley is also experiencing a shortage in the labor force. Commissioner Lara allows points out that the collaboration between the WorkSource, YouthSource, and BusinessSource centers in the region has helped the resilience of the core industries in this region. The relationships that have been built by these entities have strengthened networks for small businesses and have provided small businesses with solutions to challenges they may incur that aren’t as obvious or conventional. In addition to these relationships, Commissioner Lara notices that receiving hands-on assistance from the Council member in these areas has also strengthened the resilience of the core industries in the San Fernando Valley.

Commissioner Jackson provides commentary related to the East Los Angeles small business community. She believes that there needs to be more consistency in communication to small businesses in the area in concerns of what resources and programs are available for small businesses in the East Los Angeles area.

Commissioner Smith suggests that the departments involved in the Food and Beverage report present at the next Small Business Commission meeting to update the commission on the progress that has been made from the report’s recommendations. Mrs. Rodriguez lets the commission know that EWDD will work on coordinating a liaison from each department involved to present to the Los Angeles Small Business Commission on their progress in implementing those recommendations. Commissioner Smith also expresses that access to permits has been a challenge for small businesses in the East Los Angeles and South Los Angeles areas that are limiting the resilience of businesses in these areas.

Commissioner Torres also suggests that there is an emphasis placed on BusinessSource centers collaborating with entrepreneur centers in their regions to provide more resources to small businesses.

No Public Comment

5. EWDD Updates

Mrs. Rodriguez updates the commission on the first two JEDI Zone designations approved by City Council which are located in North Hollywood and Watts. Marketing for these JEDI Zones will begin in January of 2022.

No Public Comment

6. ADJOURNMENT

Thursday, November 18th, 2021 1:56 PM