



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
Thursday, September 23, 2021
1:00-2:30 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

City of Los Angeles Representatives: Robert Moore, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Kwesi Hanciles, Chris Espinoza, and Clay McCarter

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles Small Business Commission (LASBC) was held virtually and via teleconference on Thursday, September 23, 2021, and was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by commission Chair Ronda Jackson.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Jacqueline Rodriguez explains that the meeting minutes for the June 9th LASBC meeting were not sent out in adequate time for review.

Commissioner Torres makes a motion to approve the June 9th meeting minutes at the next commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith.

3. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

4. Report Commercial Eviction Report and Vaccine Mandate

Chris Espinoza from the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst presents information on the commercial tenants' eviction order that expires September 30th, 2021 unless extended. Once the local emergency period ends the tenants have 3 months to pay back any owed rents. Landlords are not able to charge any late payment or interest fees to tenants that are paying back these owed or late rents.

Clay McCarter also provides insight on the County and City commercial eviction order explaining that with the City order you do not have to provide written documentation that displays the tenant not having the ability to pay if the business has less than 500 employees. The County order does not apply to tenants with more than 100 employees and does require a tenant to provide written documentation of their

inability to pay if they have 10 employees or more. The County also has different repayment periods allowing tenants with less than 10 employees 12 months for repayment and businesses with more than 10 employees for six months for repayment.

Commissioner Jackson asks if there will be an extension of this order. Mr. McCarter notifies the commission that they are checking every day but there has been no sign of an extension.

Commissioner Smith poses 3 questions; are landlords and tenants entitled to both the County and City orders if they fall within each other's borders? Does a tenant have to ask to be waived from late fees in regards to these eviction orders? What type of outreach is the City doing to get this information to tenants across the City? Mr. McCarter replies to the first two questions noting that landlords and tenants that fall within the borders of the County and City will be subject to these orders and that tenants don't have to ask for the fees to be waived but if taken to court can use this order to justify their claim of not being subject to late fees. Mrs. Rodriguez explains that EWDD is working with the BusinessSource centers to circulate information about the commercial eviction orders and is also circulating a survey to help aid these efforts. EWDD is also launching a rent assistance program that will be marketed to businesses as well.

Commissioner Torres asks if there is any research that has been done in regards to tenants' ability to pay and periods that the actual business owners could identify? Mr. McCarter references the survey that is being circulated as a means to obtain that feedback from tenants.

Commissioner Smith provides comments that some landlords are also small businesses so it's would be fair to take them into account as well when considering these County and City orders. Commissioner Swanson agrees that feedback on landlords who are small businesses not receiving any consideration or help has been brought to her attention.

Mr. McCarter provides insight on the County vaccine mandate which will go into effect on October 7th. Mr. McCarter's office is working with the city attorney's office using the County's vaccine mandate as a foundation to create a mandate for the City that will also expand on the locations where a vaccine mandate will be enforced. Mr. Espinoza acknowledges that there is consistency in the City of Los Angeles vaccine mandate with other city's that already have the mandate in place.

Commissioner Torres - will small businesses be provided a set of training for verifying the required vaccine documents? Mr. McCarter explains that there will be training guides that will be issued to all small businesses but there is no formal training or certification that will be required of employees of these small businesses. Discussion continued regarding penalties for forged vaccination documentation and what parties would be responsible for violation of protocol. Businesses will be fined if they are

allowing patrons into their business without proper proof of vaccination or other required documents.

5. EWDD Staff Report

Mrs. Rodriguez provides an update on EWDD's Comeback Checks program which will provide \$5,000 checks to 5,000 businesses located in the City of Los Angeles. Businesses that apply must have business taxes as well as an active business tax revenue certificate with the office of finance. To qualify businesses must have less than 100 employees.

Mrs. Rodriguez explains the Small Business Rental Assistance Program that will provide 800 businesses with up to \$15,000 or up to 6 months' rent (whichever is the least). The program will launch in the first quarter of 2022.

6. Workplan

Mr. Hanciles presents an infographic containing notes from the previous LASBC Workplan meetings focusing on the flow of the infographic and what objectives still need to be addressed. Commissioners begin a discussion on the objectives that are under consideration.

Commissioner Jackson motions for a standalone meeting to be scheduled to further discuss the work plan, Commissioner Swanson seconds. Motion passes

7. Request to Establish Ad-Hoc Committee

Mrs. Rodriguez discusses with eh LASBC the establishment of a committee that will meet on Oct 15th to review BusinessSource center application appeals. Mrs. Rodriguez then asks for volunteers from the LASBC for the appeals board. Commissioners Simpson, Swanson, and Lara volunteer to participate in the appeals committee.

Commissioner Jackson puts forth a motion to form an ad-hoc committee consisting of Commissioner, Simpson, Lara, and Swanson for the BusinessSource center review process, seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion passes

ADJOURNMENT

September 23, 2021 at 2:30 P.M.