



CITY OF LOS ANGELES



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION MINUTES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

11 AM - 12:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSIONERS (5): Rhonda Jackson, Mott Smith, Jesse Torres, Roslyn Simpson, Gail Lara, Charles Lew

EWDD REPRESENTATIVES (3): Rosa Penaloza, Lizeth Escobedo, Alea Pettigrew

The meeting was called to order by **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** at **11:15 AM** on **June 25, 2024**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NO PUBLIC COMMENT

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES- ([2.13.24 SBC Meeting Mins](#)) ([SBC Minutes 3/19/24](#))

A. **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** motioned to approve the **February 13, 2024 & March 19, 2024 minutes**. **COMMISSIONER TORRES** seconded the motion. The motion **PASSED**

4. COMPREHENSIVE PLASTIC REDUCTION PROGRAM

A. Presentation of **Comprehensive Plastic Reduction Program - Paul Cobian, Environmental Affairs Officer, LA Sanitation**

I. **Comprehensive Plastic Reduction Program:**

- A. Paul Cobian presented the program targeting LA city's 4 million residents.
- B. Emphasis on addressing the 6 billion metric tons of plastic waste.

II. **City Ordinances on Single-Use Plastics:**

- A. Eight motions since 2010, focusing on bans for expanded polystyrene and plastic carry-on bags.
- B. Recent ordinances passed in May 2023 with support from nonprofits and industry associations.

III. **Business Outreach and Education:**

- A. A team formed in 2023 to educate businesses, especially large corporations, about waste ordinances.
- B. Outreach efforts include in-person visits and mailers to inform about styrofoam bans.

IV. Pilot Programs for Businesses:

- A. Christina from LASAN discussed helping 120 food service establishments transition to reusable products.
- B. This initiative impacted over 6,000 seats city-wide.

V. Upstream and Downstream Measures:

- A. Strategies to reduce single-use plastics by expanding facilities for recyclable materials and solid waste.
- B. Continuous initiatives and collaboration are necessary to achieve sustainability.

VI. Behavior Change and Education:

- A. Education is crucial to address litter issues, emphasizing avoiding styrofoam and plastic bags.
- B. Advocacy for supporting small businesses in implementing sustainable practices.
- C. **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** motioned to draft an advocacy letter for small businesses for Council File No. 210664, a follow-up discussion at the Small Business Commission Special Meeting on July 30, 2024. The motion **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**.

5. CASHLESS RETAIL BAN - CONTINUED

A. Presentation of **Cashless Retail Ban Survey - Lizeth Escobedo, Management Analyst, EWDD**

I. Cash Flow and Credit Issues:

- Small businesses face challenges with cash flow management, access to credit, and fraud susceptibility.
- High fees from credit card and financing companies lead to a preference for cash transactions.

II. Fraud and Safety Concerns:

- Counterfeiting and safety issues necessitate clear language and education for small businesses.
- Engaging banks to address unbanked populations and further studying the impact on small businesses.

III. Implementation and Safety Nets:

- Struggles with implementing new measures and protecting against fraud and lawsuits.
- Discussions on helping businesses stay on track with their objectives.

B. **COMMISSIONER SMITH** motioned to **OPPOSE** the CASHLESS RETAIL BAN. **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** seconded. The motion **PASSED**.

6. EWDD PROGRAMS AND UPDATES

- A. Discussion item tabled for next meeting

7. CITY OF LOS ANGELES LEGACY BUSINESS PROGRAM- CONTINUED

- A. Presentation of **Legacy Business Program - Nyssa Buck**

I. **Grants and Outreach Efforts:**

- Efforts to engage small businesses, updates on the legacy business program, and outreach in various neighborhoods.
- Plans to open a remote program for succession planning and prioritizing community initiatives.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Small Business Commission Special Meeting to be held on July 30, 2024

9. ADJOURNMENT

- A. **COMMISSIONER JACKSON** adjourned the meeting at **12:48 pm**
COMMISSIONER TORRES seconded.

