



COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY & FAMILY SERVICES
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
 Monday, September 26, 2022 11:00 a.m.



Commissioners

In conformity with **AB 361**, and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Commission for Community and Family Services meeting will be conducted **via teleconference**.

LIVE AUDIO: The meeting can be listened to via Council Phone (213) 621-2489. This is for listen-only mode.

PUBLIC INPUT ACCESS: The public is encouraged to make public comments. Written comment can be submitted via email to Olivia.Mitchell@lacity.org.

All efforts have been made to provide all the materials relative to items on this agenda at the time of the posting of the Agenda. If such materials are not available at the time of the posting of the Agenda and/or the meeting, they will be posted on the department website within two days. Members of the public who wish to offer audio public comment should call + 1 669 944 9171 and use Meeting ID No. 884 7864 7258 followed by the # (pound sign). Participants will be asked to press # (pound sign) again to continue. To raise your hand on this phone call to give public comment, press *9 on your phone key pad.

REQUEST FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: Requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act can be made by contacting Maria Gomez at maria.gomez@lacity.org

1. CALL TO ORDER,

- a) **Welcome** – Ben Torres, *President*
- b) **Introduction of new and re-appointed Commissioners**
- c) **Roll Call:** Olivia Mitchell, *Assistant Chief Grants Administrator*
Introduction of staff participating in the meeting

2. AGENDA ITEMS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public are invited to address the Commission on agenda items during the Public Comment Period. Speakers are limited to a maximum of one (1) minute of general public comment regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission, and one (1) minute on a single agenda item or two (2) minutes on multiple agenda items, for a maximum of three (3) minutes. The total time allotted to an individual for public comment may be further limited by the Commission in order to accommodate the number of public comment speakers or if the Commission may lose a quorum

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) August 29, 2022

4. ACTION ITEM

Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB 361

Reconsideration and Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and that the circumstances of the state of emergency continue to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely

Reconsideration and Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3(e)(3) that the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and that the circumstances of the state of emergency continue to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely

Benjamin Torres, *President*

Deborah Marcus, *Vice President*

Robinne Burrell

Carmen Chang

Ingrid Estrada

Jacquelynn Hawthorne

Loretta Lopez Herndon

Jesse Noonan

Rashad Rucker-Trapp

Jesse Wilson

Manuel Flores

Kelli Dillon

Jayanthi Daniel

Danielle Strickland

Brenda Hernandez

Barak Vaughn, *Deputy City Attorney*

CIFD Staff

Abigail R. Marquez *General Manager*

Jacqueline Rodriguez *Director Con Plan and Program Operations*

Olivia Mitchell *Assistant Chief Grants Administrator*

Maria Gomez, *Staff*

CIFD Website:
LA4Families.org

in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

5. UPDATE

- a) **Poverty Summit**

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. NEXT SPECIAL & QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETINGS

- a) ***Special Meeting - Monday, October 24, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.***
b) ***Quarterly Meeting - Monday, November 7, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.***

8. ADJOURNMENT

Accessibility Requests: Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, request need to be called into the Commission office at least three working days before the meeting (213) 847-3759.

Due to technological changes, if TTY is needed to contact us, please use Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS) such as Text-to-Voice TTY-based TRS, Speech-to-Speech Relay Service, Shared Non-English Language Relay Services, Captioned Telephone Service; IP Captioned Telephone Service, Internet Protocol Relay Service, or Video Relay Service.

Notice to Paid Representatives: If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code 48.1 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org



**COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, August 29, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Commissioners

Benjamin Torres,
President

Deborah Marcus,
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*Assistant Chief Grants
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Maria Gomez,
Staff

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1. CALL TO ORDER,

a) **Welcome** – Benjamin Torres, *President.*
Meeting called to order at 11:06 a.m.

b) **Roll Call** - Maria Gomez, *Staff for Community Investment for Families
Department*

Commissioners Present: Ben Torres, Deborah Marcus, Carmen Chang, Loretta Lopez-Herndon, Jesse Wilson, Robinne Burrell, Jesse Noonan, Rashad Rucker-Trapp

A quorum was present.

Commissioners Absent: Jacquelynn Hawthorne, Ingrid Estrada

Staff present: Jacqueline Rodriguez, Olivia Mitchell, Maria Gomez

2. AGENDA ITEMS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no one for public comment. However, despite the lack of members of the public immediately identified, changes to public comment rules require that the public comment period remain open for a reasonable amount of time as determined and stated by the President at each meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the August 01, 2022 minute meetings.

4. DISCUSSION OF ACTION ITEMS – Ben Torres, *Commission President*

The Commission Finds the Following:

On October 1st 2021 the Governor Newsom approved AB 361 to amend the Brown Act to allow governmental agencies to continue to conduct virtual meetings so long as certain additional requirements are met. The Act added safeguards and to ensure that the public has the opportunity to be heard. The initial requirement is that Brown Act boards and commissions hold an initial meeting while the Governor’s State of Emergency is still effect. In order to safely meet this requirement, it was important for the Board meet prior to October 31, 2021. The regularly scheduled November 1, 2021 meeting was canceled. The Brown Act further requires that this commission meet every 30 days, with a quorum, to determine the need to meet virtually and reconfirm its desire to continue with virtual meetings.

A motion to continue to meet virtual was moved, seconded and approved.

5. DISCUSSION

a) **AB 361** – Barak Vaughn, *Deputy City Attorney*

Mr. Vaughn explained that at this time the City of Los Angeles does not have a mechanism for its Commissions to meet in person. There is no timeline as to when that will change. Mr. Vaughn went on to explain that if the Commission doesn’t approve AB 361 it would mean that Commissioners are not agreeing to continue to meet virtually. Commissioners expressed concerns over meeting monthly for the sole purpose of voting on AB 361. Mr. Vaughn explained that it would be up to the Commission with the support of CIFD on possibly adding Agenda items that need to

be discussed at AB361 required meetings. Commissioners also inquired about other city offices opening up and inquired about other exceptions or conditions in which the Commission can meet in person. Mr. Vaughn explained that other Commissions and Boards had expressed the same sentiment but unfortunately meeting in person outside of chambers is not possible since meetings have to include public access and have to abide by Brown Act Laws.

b) Poverty Summit – Celeste Rodriguez, *Senior Project Coordinator*, and Aaron Strauss, *Project Coordinator*

Mr. Strauss provided an update on the progress of the Poverty Summit which will be held on October 13, 2022 at The California Endowment. The philosophy for the Poverty Summit is Looking Back, Forging Forward. Items that will be discussed during the summit will be things such as looking back at programs, looking at data and policy, and what can be done moving forward.

c) Opportunity LA

Celeste Rodriguez explained that Opportunity LA is the program that is collaborating with LAUSD on providing 1st graders with opening a savings account with an initial \$50.00 deposit. There is currently no more funding from the state of California for this program. In order to raise funds, the CIFD team is pivoting and trying to secure funding through other private, for profit and non-profit fundraising. CIFD staff is seeking the Commissions support with fundraising efforts.

6. UPDATE

a) Commissions and Commissioner role in CIFD programs and initiatives

Roles of the Commission and Individual Commissioners was discussed when AB 361 was discussed and also when the Poverty Summit and Opportunity LA were discussed.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) New Commissioners

Ms. Mitchell explained that there are currently four new Commissioners who are pending confirmation.

8. AGENDA SETTING & NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next Special Meeting is set for September 26, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.