



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
WOMEN AND GIRLS INITIATIVE GOVERNING
COUNCIL**

Monday, March 22, 2021

1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

**Council Members, staff and the public attended meeting via
Microsoft Teams Video Conferencing or by phone.**

Roll Call and Review of Meeting Logistics -- Nicole Bryant (21-1277)

Chair Bea Stotzer called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Nicole Bryant, Chief Executive Office (CEO) Analyst, called the roll. Among those present were Women and Girls Initiative (WGI) Governing Council staff: Abbe Land, Executive Director, Porsha Potts, Senior Sec. III, and Nicole Bryant. Also, in attendance were Imelda Padilla, WGI Community Engagement and Outreach Consultant, Jackie Filla, Ph.D., WGI Research Consultant, and Marissa Ayala, Sheila Kuehl Policy Fellow.

Chair Bea Stotzer held a moment of silence for the killing of eight people in Atlanta, GA including six Asian women. She announced to report hate crime incidences call 211.

Present: Chair Bea Stotzer, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez-Trumkul, Chris Hershey, Sandra Mendoza, Alice S. Petrossian, Jennifer Quan, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Sharon Shelton, Kathy Spillar and Jane Templin

Absent: Angela Underwood-Jacobs

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of Minutes February 22, 2021 (21-1278)

On motion of Member Sandra Mendoza, seconded by Member Kafi Blumenfield and unanimously carried by the following vote, the WGI approved the meeting minutes from February 22, 2021.

Ayes: 14 - Chair Bea Stotzer, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez-Trumkul, Chris Hershey, Sandra Mendoza, Alice S. Petrossian, Jennifer Quan, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Sharon Shelton, Kathy Spillar and Jane Templin

Absent: 1 - Angela Underwood-Jacobs

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. SPECIAL GUEST

2. Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Board of Supervisors, Second District (21-1279)

Chair Stotzer introduced recently elected Board of Supervisor, Holly Mitchell, who made history being appointed to the 2nd Supervisorial District and for consolidating the first ever assembly of women as members of the Board of Supervisors (Board). When she served as a State Senator for California, she passed over 90 laws as she worked tirelessly to address the needs of the underserved. In addition, she was honored as a 2020 Visionary by Oprah Winfrey’s O Magazine for making California the first state in the nation to ban natural hair discrimination with The CROWN Act.

Supervisor Holly Mitchell thanked Chair Stotzer and acknowledged Executive Director Abbe Land, and Second Supervisorial District appointees Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, and Sharon Shelton for their dedication in serving the community and the WGI Governing Council. She stated the WGI is at the forefront of elevating the needs of women and girls throughout Los Angeles County.

Supervisor Mitchell shared two recent occurrences that she imparted with the Governing Council:

Supervisor Mitchell appreciated Chair Stotzer’s acknowledgement of the Asian women who were murdered this month in Atlanta, GA, while at work and for recognizing the rise in hate crimes and violence towards women. She further stated the truth about what happened and law enforcement denying it as a hate crime was disheartening which is why it is so important to have a women and girls initiative in Los Angeles County. She is irritated by the role white supremacy ideology passed on to the Country and emphasized the importance of elevating and telling the truth, on behalf of our sisters, about race responsive language, for creating a paradigm shift; as the data stipulates hate crimes are on the rise and that cannot be denied.

Supervisor Mitchell also acknowledged the difficulties elite athletic women encounter when facing motherhood. She was listening to a program highlighting the lack of sponsor support for female athletes choosing to become mothers during their athletic careers. As a single mother herself raising a teenage son during her campaigns for office, she identified closely with the struggle in making life defining choices. A nonprofit organization recognized the challenges and financial inequities elite female athletes confront to parent and train i.e. for the Olympics. There is an organization that provides financial support to lessen the financial hardship and inequities rendered to women as they train professionally.

Supervisor Mitchell stated women continue to be penalized for being a parent across the board, stating there are ways to create opportunities and support for women across sectors. As women we all have different needs and experiences and if we are parents, that must be acknowledged in order to create opportunities for equity.

Supervisor Mitchell hopes to partner with WGI along with the Board as we design and redesign the system that lead us to rebuild our emergence from the pandemic. She hopes to use this once in a life onslaught of major resource from the Federal Government, to do something innovative and relevant for today that will reshape, rebuild, and reinvest in how we want to raise our girls in Los Angeles County.

III. REPORTS

3. Chair Report - Bea Stotzer

Establish Homeless Women Ad Hoc Committee

Appointments will be made to an ad hoc committee that brings recommendations to WGI Governing Council to reduce homelessness for women.

Action: Approval to establish ad hoc committee to sunset no later than July 26, 2021 (21-1280)

Chair Stotzer reported she is hoping to hear from the Chief Information Office (CIO) to obtain the status of the WGI Gender Impact Assessment (GIA); a draft of the University of Southern California (USC) Economic Resiliency Study will be issued on Monday, March 29, 2021 requiring a response by Wednesday, March 31, 2021. Also, the WGI intends to contact the White House Gender Policy Council recently established by President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to share the efforts gained by the Governing Council.

Establish Homeless Women Ad Hoc Committee

From Phil Ansell, Director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative in the Chief Executive Office (CEO) report on the Homeless Initiative, Chair Stotzer sensed the need to delve deeper into the unusual increase in homeless women (32 percent) and accessible services. Establishing the Homeless Women Ad Hoc Committee will allow the Governing Council an opportunity to make recommendations for inclusion in the final report to Board. The Ad Hoc Committee will sunset no later than July 26, 2021. Members include Vice Chair Wendy Greuel as convener along with Sandra Mendoza, Alice Petrossian, and Sharon Shelton.

On motion of Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, seconded by Anita DeFrantz, and unanimously carried by the following vote, the Governing Council approved the formation of the Homeless Women Ad Hoc Committee to sunset no later than July 26, 2021.

Ayes: 14 - Chair Bea Stotzer, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez-Trumkul, Chris Hershey, Sandra Mendoza, Alice S. Petrossian, Jennifer Quan, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Sharon Shelton, Kathy Spillar and Jane Templin

Absent: 1 - Angela Underwood-Jacobs

4. Community Engagement Ad Hoc - Sharon Shelton

Virtual Town Hall Report Presentation - Imelda Padilla, WGI Community Engagement and Outreach Consultant (21-1281)

Chair Stotzer, opened the presentation by bidding Imelda Padilla, WGI Community Engagement and Outreach Consultant, a warm heartfelt farewell. Since the inception of the WGI, Ms. Padilla's tireless dedication and commitment has contributed to the WGI rich strategic framework. Her ability to effortlessly assemble and convene everyone was because of her depth and knowledge of the community, which in turn fashioned the virtual town hall meetings to be a success. She will be missed.

Member Sharon Shelton thanked the Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee Members, Dr. Carmen Shaye, Alice Petrossian, Jane Templin, former Chair Araceli Campos as well as Marissa Ayala, Sheila Kuehl Policy Fellow, for giving their time and knowledge in reviewing the material and formulating the recommendations from the virtual town hall meetings held between August 2020-October 2020. Ms. Padilla did an excellent job in documenting the conversations. Along with the County stakeholders, the

panelist and the Ad Hoc Committee had the opportunity to listen and review the recommendations and the extremely well-done executive summary. Member Shelton stated how much she is grateful and proud of the Ad Hoc committee and Ms. Padilla.

Ms. Padilla was excited to see everyone today and thanked everyone for their kind words from a group of amazing women on the Governing Council. She had a wonderful time working on the various projects, especially, the recent town halls.

Ms. Padilla proceeded with the PowerPoint presentation, "Report to the Governing Council on What Can be Done?," by stating the recommendations were influenced by the content from the five Community Engagement and Outreach Virtual Town Hall meetings, the COVID-19 pandemic and the social unrest of 2020 due to the asphyxiation of George Floyd during his arrest.

As for the town halls, Ms. Padilla stated the panelist were intentionally selected for their diversity in respect to the community they serve. The town halls were categorized to address the following: Women and Girls of Color; The Future Economy and Women in the Workforce; Women Over the Age of 55; Domestic Violence and its Impact on Homelessness; and Women and Girls and What is the Role of County Government.

Ms. Padilla further stated that when reviewing the town halls videos and interviewing the panelist for the report much of the content aligned with what already exist within the WGI strategic framework: Equitable Workplace; Economic Mobility; Inclusive Services Empowerment; and Partnerships. Also, additional sections on Women and Girls of Color and Women Over the Age of 55 will be added to the report. The next step is to receive input from the Governing Council.

Ms. Padilla reported for women and girls to be embolden, the County will need to consider obtaining the back story on why the person needs services, understand the intersectionality of all their clients and the needs of residents in a specific region. The County needs to be more aggressive in their intergovernmental approach in obtaining funds and providing social services for its constituents by challenging the State of California and the Federal Government. The County also needs to recognize in all its spending the girls of today and women over the age of 55.

Lastly, Ms. Padilla stated for a better world for women and girls to thrive, economic mobility and access to health care are a must to prevent sustained hardships.

To address Member Campos question, Ms. Padilla stated the WGI wanted a policy driven method to addressing the needs of women and girls and less community engagement. Member Shelton added the Ad Hoc Committee is considering the possibility of continuing the dialog initiated by the WGI on gender equity long after sunseting.

Vice Chair Greuel, Member Shelton, and Executive Director Land expressed their appreciation for Ms. Padilla accomplishments as it is incumbent upon Members of the WGI to make sure the final report does not go by the wayside. It is important to remain in contact with the participants encouraging even greater participation as we go forward.

Executive Land acknowledged the work that Ms. Padilla has completed for the WGI and her unique way of looking from the inside out and the outside in something everyone cannot do. This report really shows her ability to articulate what she hears to help move the women and girl's initiative forward. Executive Director Land personally thanked Ms. Padilla for all she has done from the very beginning leading up to the work with County departments and getting everyone to participate in the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and ending with the Community Engagement report.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

5. WGI Final Report Ad Hoc - Chris Hershey (21-1283)

Member Chris Hershey, Chair of the WGI Final Report Ad Hoc Committee, reported that the next step will be sending the Governing Council a questionnaire using SurveyMonkey to gain everyone's input for the synthesized outline. The questionnaire will be issued in March or April 2021; therefore, the outline will probably become available by June 2021.

6. At-Promise Girls Ad Hoc - Anita DeFrantz (21-1284)

Member Anita DeFrantz, Chair of the At Promise Girls Ad Hoc Committee, thanked everyone for connecting the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Master of Public Policy students with the various organizations that will assist them with their report. She stated the Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to meet next week for an update as well as to define specifically the purpose and intent of the report for it to be impactful and implementable.

Marissa Ayala, Sheila Kuehl Policy Fellow, reported the deadline for completing the bulk of the work is April 15, 2021. In three weeks, the

students intend to complete as many interviews as possibly with educators and administrators from Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), a few school districts and nonprofits organizations with a focus on nonprofit justice groups. The students decided to conduct more interviews with LACOE since the recommendations are going to Los Angeles County (County) which can be effectuated countywide. The project, based on the student's own criteria, addresses how girls of color are negatively impacted by the discipline policies governed in schools; taken into consideration are the general effectiveness, the financial and political feasibility aspects of the policies. The Governing Council opportunity to provide feedback will be before finalizing the report in late May or early June 2021.

7. Executive Director's Report - Abbe Land
CEDAW -- Update - Araceli Campos (21-1285)

WGI Executive Director Abbe Land report began with an update from Member Campos regarding CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Member Campos stated a Board motion, co-sponsored by Supervisors Kuehl and Mitchell, requiring County Council to report back in the first week of April with recommendations for integrating CEDAW in the County ordinance. The recommendations will help the Governing Council with their implementing plan and the very invested partners, the Los Angeles County Commission for Women and the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission. By the next meeting and once County Council submits its report, the process for mainstreaming CEDAW throughout the County will be better understood.

Executive Director Land reported on the following:

- **The WGI Annual Report will be on the Board's agenda on March 23, 2021. Supervisor Kuehl requested a brief update of the WGI 2020 activities such as the 100th Year Anniversary of the Suffragettes, the outcomes from the focus groups on childcare, family leave, and mentorships. Copies of the Annual Report will be disseminated to Members of the Governing Council.**
- **The Women's Leadership Virtual Conference held by the Department of Public Works is scheduled for March 23 25, 2021. At the event, on March 24, 2021, Executive Director Land will have the incredible privilege of having a fireside chat with labor leader and civil rights activist, Dolores Huerta.**
- **On International Women's Day, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris established a White House Gender Policy Council as well as issue a directive to ensure girls obtain an education that is free from sexual violence. A statement reflecting WGI's support for the Council is on the WGI website.**

- **The WGI was asked, “What will be the Governing Council’s response to hate crimes against women and girls?” Moreover, to consider adding to the agenda a presentation by the Human Relations Commission to discuss LA versus Hate and their statistics to determine what the Governing Council can learn specifically about women and girls.**

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

- 8. Announcements (21-1282)**

There were no announcements.

Public Comment

- 9. Public Comment (21-1286)**

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

- 10. Adjourn April 26, 2021 1:00-2:30 (21-1287)**

On motion of Member Anita DeFrantz, seconded by Chris Hershey, and unanimously carried by the following vote, the Governing Council approved the meeting adjournment at 2:15 p.m. for a Regular Meeting scheduled for April 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Ayes: 14 - Chair Bea Stotzer, Vice Chair Wendy Greuel, Kafi Blumenfield, Araceli Campos, Anita DeFrantz, Perla Hernandez-Trumkul, Chris Hershey, Sandra Mendoza, Alice S. Petrossian, Jennifer Quan, Dr. Carmen Schaye, Sharon Shelton, Kathy Spillar and Jane Templin

Absent: 1 - Angela Underwood-Jacobs