

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
16401 Paramount Blvd.  
Paramount, California  
April 1, 2020**

**Zoom Conference**

Due to technical issues with the Zoom conferencing application, GCCOG Board of Directors President Diane DuBois delegated the meeting to GCCOG Executive Director, Nancy Pfeffer. On behalf of President DuBois, Executive Director Pfeffer called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

**PRESENT:** President Diane DuBois, City of Lakewood  
Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra, City of Whittier  
Member Joe Angel Zamora, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Member Naresh Solanki, City of Cerritos  
Member John Lewis, City of La Mirada  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cinde MacGugan Cassidy, City of Avalon  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Maria Davila, City of South Gate  
Member Raymond Dunton, City of Bellflower  
Member Herlinda Chico, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Member Alex Saab, City of Downey  
Member Jhonny Pineda, City of Huntington Park  
Member Edward H. J. Wilson, City of Signal Hill  
Member Roberto Uranga, City of Long Beach

**ABSENT:** Member Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce

**ALSO PRESENT:** Thaddeus McCormick, City Manager - City of Lakewood; Nancy Pfeffer, Stephanie Cadena, Joel Arevalos, Ivy Tsai, Norm Emerson – Gateway Cities COG staff, Sharon Weissman – Metro Board Deputy to Robert Garcia, Tyler Curley – City of Long Beach Mayor’s office, Nina Turner – Port of Long Beach, Asia Powell – California Public Utilities Commission, Member of the public, Andres Molina, Government Relations Manager – WSP.

Roll call was taken by GCCOG Office Assistant Joel Arevalos.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no public comments.

Under Matters from the Executive Director, Pfeffer expressed appreciation to Board Members for conducting the meeting virtually via Zoom and for their patience during

technical issues. Executive Director Pfeffer then described changes to the COG staff's schedules as of March 14, 2020 due to COVID-19, noting that the COG is continuing operations as normal while staff is working remotely and using Zoom conferencing for all meetings. Pfeffer then thanked Metro Deputies Luke Klipp and Sharon Weissman for their help in learning how Metro is continuing operations. She then noted that staff would like to have a full meeting agenda for next month's meeting, and that this meeting is a good test of the Zoom technology. Executive Director Pfeffer reminded the Board that today is Census Day, and it's even more important for everyone to be counted given the issues with COVID-19 and its disruption to all residents. She then talked about the COG's Housing Bill to incentivize cities to rezone non-residential properties into housing, which was introduced last month by State Senator Bob Archuleta as Senate Bill 1179. While the Legislature has recessed due to COVID-19, COG staff is continuing to work with authors, staff and legislative counsel and be prepared for a hearing, if and when that is scheduled. Executive Director Pfeffer then brought up 2 housing grant programs for Members to be aware of. The first is the LEAP Program, which was introduced last month to the Board. LEAP provides one-time housing planning funds through a state housing bill. Funding applications are due by July 1, 2020. COG staff will be working with all member cities to assist them in accessing funding, and will also be planning an informational webinar for cities. The second program is the Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) program, which is SB 2 implementation funding. SB 2 Planning Grants began last year, with this next round of implementation funds being PLHA. The due date will likely be late summer 2020. COG staff will be working with cities to make sure they are able to apply for funding.

Immediate Past President Fernando Dutra asked if PLHA provides allocations to cities and if we know how much, or if cities can apply and will be funded based on needs. Executive Director Pfeffer replied that there's an eligible amount of funds allocated for each city, and that not all cities will be eligible for this funding. COG staff is not sure why some cities may not be eligible and staff will look into this to make sure no cities are left out. Pfeffer noted that the allocations are based on federal CDBG formulas, and staff is working to understand what the NOFA amounts are for all cities.

Past President Dutra said that according to Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, CDBG will be the mechanism used to allocate Coronavirus funding for cities, and asked staff and Board members to look out for that. Director Pfeffer said this underscores the importance for us to be on the lookout for this funding for cities.

Executive Director Pfeffer reminded Committee members that they are free to unmute themselves at any time.

On behalf of the Chair, Director Pfeffer went on to the Consent Calendar. Member Herlinda Chico made a motion to approve the consent calendar. It was seconded by Past President Dutra. GCCOG staff Arevalos performed a roll call and the consent calendar was approved unanimously.

Under Matters from the Committee, Member Johnny Pineda wanted to let all Committee Members know that today is his last meeting with the GCCOG. He has decided not to run for reelection because he received a job opportunity in Sacramento and will be beginning work soon. He will be travelling back and forth between Sacramento and Los Angeles. Pineda thanked everyone and said he appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with all the Committee members. Committee members expressed congratulations and good luck, and thanked him for his work.

Executive Director Pfeffer asked for any other matters from the Executive Committee. Member Wilson said those that are still working have to take protective measures, and while most are staying home, if you are outside you need to do whatever you can to protect yourself. This is a significant issue and the numbers don't even tell the full story. It will be too late if we were too wait to reach the numbers of the flu. He asked everyone to take the situation very seriously. Committee members and Director Pfeffer agreed.

Under Matters from the President, Executive Director Pfeffer asked Lakewood City Manager Thaddeus McCormack if there are any matters from the President. McCormack responded that President DuBois apologized for technological issues, and that staff will get it resolved for the next meeting. Director Pfeffer thanked McCormack and expressed appreciation for President DuBois' effort and contributions.

Member Cinde Cassidy asked if we can safely assume that we will be in the same situation for the May meeting and possibly the June meeting. Director Pfeffer stated that we will definitely be doing this for May, given the City of Paramount has already told us we cannot use the room due to COVID-19, and said she would appreciate any suggestions and feedback on how to make this easier.

Adjournment: On behalf of the Chair, Executive Director Pfeffer adjourned the meeting at 6:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Pfeffer, Executive Director