

Meeting of the South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce January 5, 2021

The South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce (SBACC) had its monthly virtual meeting on January 5, 2021. Here are the highlights of that meeting:

Spotlight.

- The presenter was Gerardo Pinedo, Chief of Staff of LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District. He discussed the County's response to the COVID-19 surge, and the push to obtain more resources. He said that the County is in transition between testing and vaccinations. They have been attempting to get more Federal resources, including securing hospital personnel, and Sup. Hahn's initiative, before the Board, to obtain the Navy hospital ship, Mercy. He said that on the policy side, as to the closing of restaurants, Sup. Hahn has attempted to take a more surgical approach. However, that view has been voted down. He said the County may add "Hero's Pay" of \$5.00/hour to the paychecks of employees whose employers have more than 300 employees on the payroll. He also said the problem of vaccine distribution has been the result of communication with the federal government, which has been slower in getting the vaccine to the states.
- Grace Farwell and Laurie Jacobs gave a report from the SBCCOG on homelessness and the business community. The COG has received innovation funds from measure H, and is providing training on homelessness issues to the business community. Ms. Jacobs said that the COG is looking to open a dialogue with the business community using real data, attempting to dispel the myths surrounding homelessness, and giving businesses information which will allow them to participate in solutions to this problem.
- They advised that the best method of reporting a homeless individual is LA-HOP.org.

Governmental Affairs Report.

- The Board adopted the SBACC 2021 Policy Platform, which included the following Strategic Initiatives:
 1. Economic Recovery and Reopening
 2. Healthcare
 3. Housing
 4. Resources and Regional Infrastructure
 5. Aerospace and Defense Industry
- There was a report on both the 2021 State of California Budget Proposal and the State's Legislative Calendar.
- Jennifer La Marque, from Sup. Hahn's office, reported that the County will be sponsoring food distribution events, partnering with LA County Food Bank, and that they are waiting for additional federal funds to cover this program through February.

Ms. La Marque also reported that Chambers of Commerce are now eligible for PPP loans.

- Jeff Kiernan of Cal Cities, which is the new name for the League of California Cities, reported that its 2021 goals are:
 1. Securing federal funding for COVID-relief,
 2. Providing housing for homeless individuals,
 3. Coordination of community agencies for disaster preparedness, and
 4. Securing infrastructure funding.

Mr. Kiernan also reported that there will be no funding for state and local governments in the new COVID relief federal package.

Submitted by:

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Chair, South Bay COG