

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION – COUNTY OF KERN
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, California 93301

Regular Meeting
Monday, July 9, 2018
5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioners Agbalog, Burrow, Price, and Rose

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Bryan Alba, Brittany Bonilla, Devin Brown, Maria Murbach, Keri Pharris, Mary Stewart, Kimberlyn Stillwell, Brian Van Wyk, and others.

NOTE: Ag, Bu, Pri, and Ro are abbreviations for Commissioners Agbalog, Burrow, Price, and Rose. For example, Bu/Pri denotes Commissioner Burrow made the motion and Commissioner Price seconded the motion. The abbreviations “ab” means absent and “abd” abstained.

COMMISSIONER ACTION IS SHOWN IN CAPS AFTER EACH ITEM

President Price called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Commissioner Burrow arrived 5:34 p.m.

PUBLIC SESSION

1. Public Presentations

Sonja Bennett – Ms. Bennett informed the Commission that she is a SEIU representative and County employee at the Department of Human Services for almost 25 years. She stated that there is a critical concern regarding Commissioner Agbalog’s ability to be impartial based on his two opinion pieces in the newspaper. His statements as the Director for Kern Citizens for Sustainable Government, which partners with the California Policy Center, point out that he seeks to defund the unions and take away their voice. She has reason to doubt Mr. Agbalog’s ability to look at the issues and not his special interests. She asked the Commission how they could trust that he will be impartial.

President Price stated he is not sure the Commission has jurisdiction over this topic and asked Commissioner Agbalog if he would like to comment. Commissioner Agbalog stated the public has the floor.

Bernice Bonillas – stated she was not a County employee but was present to comment on Mr. Agbalog’s opinion pieces in the paper. Ms. Bonillas explained she was a member of the Utility Workers of America when she worked for Southern Cal Gas for 41 years. She retired 30 years ago. If it had not been for her hard-earned pension, she would not have been able to stay in her home. She thanked the unions for all their hard work.

Veronica Vasquez – stated she is a County employee and voiced her concerns about Commissioner Agbalog and his role as director for Kern Citizens for Substantial Government. This entity and his opinions in the paper are not the values shared in the union. His opinion piece encourages members to drop membership in the union. As a commissioner, and a college trustee, Mr. Agbalog's words in a public opinion piece are a conflict of interest in the Commissioner's ability to follow through with the duties of maintaining equitable and uniform procedure. An impartial Commissioner cannot also seek to divide the workers. Mr. Agbalog's previous comments and decisions when deciding not to investigate or question an investigation that harm clients in our community, or harmed workers subject to discrimination and harassment, are now subject [sic] in the members' eyes. She asked the Commission to refer this matter to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and to the grand jury for an independent investigation with Mr. Agbalog's clear bias. She stated that the people present have come together today to voice their opposition to Mr. Agbalog sitting on this Commission. She stated that they demand fairness, transparency from this Commission that serves a larger purpose to Kern County. She asked to protect the work of this Commission, which is to be an independent ruling body. She stated that with Mr. Agbalog, who seeks to attack the union and the workers, they worry that this Commission can no longer be independent and unbiased.

President Price announced Commission Burrow had joined the meeting.

Renee Nelson – stated she was not a member of a union, but was here because she read the opinion in the paper. She believes it is inappropriate for a member of this Commission to put that into a public forum, it is an inappropriate message to send to the people that the Commission is here to represent. She believes it is a conflict of interest and she supports the idea that this matter be referred to the BOS and to the grand jury. Please use your position wisely for the people that are making our community a better place by serving us.

President Price stated he was not sure the Commission has any jurisdiction over any Commissioner's opinions and explained that the public may address the Board of Supervisors regarding this matter if they would like. No other comments.

***CONSENT AGENDA**

***2. Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting on June 11, 2018; NO PUBLIC COMMENT; **APPROVED**; *Ro/Bu – All ayes*

***3. Examination Schedule:** The following examinations have been scheduled in accordance with Civil Service Rules and established procedures. NO PUBLIC COMMENT; **APPROVED**; *Ro/Bu – All ayes*

7255) Department of Child Support Services Program Manager

7256) Human Services Aide – Department of Human Services

7257) Latent Print Examiner – Department Promotional

7258) Program Coordinator – Department Promotional – Planning & Community Development

7259) Housing Rehabilitation Technician

7260) Facilities and Services Manager – Department Promotional – Behavioral Health

7261) Animal Care Worker – Shift

- 7262) Public Health Nurse III
- 7263) Social Service Supervisor I-Department Promotional-Human Services-Ridgecrest
- 7264) Housing Rehabilitation Technician – Bilingual
- 7265) Mail Clerk I
- 7266) Behavioral Health Unit Supervisor I/II
- 7267) Principal Human Resources Analyst – Department Promotional – CAO
- 7268) Fiscal Support Technician
- 7269) Fair Housing Coordinator-Bilingual-Department Promotional-Planning & Natural Resources
- 7270) Senior Systems Analyst – Department Promotional – KCERA
- 7271) Airport Maintenance Worker I
- 7272) Medical Investigator
- 7273) Library Associate

4. **New Specification(s):** The following job specification(s) have been created and approved by the Chief Human Resources Officer and are submitted for the Commission's review in accordance with Civil Service Rule 204.21. **REVIEWED, RECEIVED, AND FILED;** *Ro/Bu – All ayes*

- a) Retirement Investment Officer, Item No. 0717
- b) Pre-Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Item No. 1554

Devin Brown, Chief Human Resources Officer, provided a brief overview. No Public Comment.

5. **Commission Secretary Monthly Report**

Mrs. Murbach informed the Commission that routine inquiries were received in the Commission Office during the past month regarding the dates and times for the Commission meetings.

There were two department office visits during the past month. Mrs. Murbach met with Mr. Lito Morillo, Director for the Aging and Adult Services Department. This department offers so many services to our elderly citizens. She also visited the Agriculture and Measurement Standards Department and met with Commissioner Glenn Fankhauser. This department plays an important role in Kern County and it was an interesting visit. President Price stated he and Commissioner Rose had previously visited this department and Commissioner Rose agreed that it was a fascinating department.

6. **Human Resources Division Items/Report:**

Mr. Brown introduced Kimberlyn Stillwell, Senior Talent Recruiter. He informed the Commission that Behavioral Health and Recovery Services will soon have a dedicated talent recruiter assigned to assist them as they continue to grow.

7. **Commission Member Presentations or Announcements:**

None

8. **Adjourn to Closed Session:** at 5:51 p.m., the Commission adjourned to closed session to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, discipline, or dismissal of

public employees and/or to hear complaints or charges brought against employees by another person or employee.

CLOSED SESSION (Government Code § 54957)

9. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT– Discipline/Dismissal/Release
Deputy Sheriff (Sheriff's Office) – Case No. 2018-0007; **HEARING DATES SET TO JANUARY 7, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, AND 28, 2019**
10. President Price adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting to be held on Monday August 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.