

CALIFORNIA CITIZENS COMPENSATION COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPTION OF RECORDED
CALIFORNIA CITIZENS COMPENSATION COMMISSION MEETING
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

JUNE 8, 2021

TRANSCRIBED BY: DONNA K. NICHOLS, RPR, CSR NO. 5660

JOB #: 8286CMR

1 CHAIR DALZELL: -- the 2021 meeting of the California
2 Citizens Compensation Commission. We meet today for the
3 second year now remotely. But it is, nevertheless, a public
4 meeting where we will discuss and set the compensation for
5 certain State officials.

6 Can we call -- call the roll. Roll call.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Yes. Tom Dalzell.

8 CHAIR DALZELL: Present.

9 FEMALE VOICE: Margaret Wong.

10 COMMISSIONER WONG: Present.

11 FEMALE VOICE: Laura Horrocks.

12 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: Present.

13 FEMALE VOICE: And Nichole Rice.

14 COMMISSIONER RICE: Present.

15 FEMALE VOICE: We have a quorum.

16 CHAIR DALZELL: All -- all here. Our -- our first
17 order of business is to review and approve the Minutes from
18 our May 28, 2020 -- the -- the transcript is included within
19 the packet of materials that we've been provided. It is a
20 transcript of 30 pages.

21 Does anybody have any corrections that they would
22 like to suggest to the transcript?

23 Hearing none I -- I'm . . . the meeting.

24 Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER WONG: I'll second, Margaret Wong.

1 CHAIR DALZELL: All right. Shall we ask staff to
2 call the -- the roll on -- on this motion?

3 FEMALE VOICE: Tom Dalzell.

4 CHAIR DALZELL: Yes.

5 FEMALE VOICE: Margaret Wong.

6 COMMISSIONER WONG: Yes.

7 FEMALE VOICE: Nichole Rice.

8 COMMISSIONER RICE: Yes.

9 FEMALE VOICE: Laura Horrocks.

10 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: Yes.

11 CHAIR DALZELL: All right. With that we've approved
12 our Minutes.

13 We are now ready for our opening comments. We then
14 blend into our discussion. So I think that what we -- what
15 we have to say we should probably try to get into our
16 opening comments so that we can then discuss with each other
17 (unintelligible).

18 Commissioner Rice to go first.

19 COMMISSIONER RICE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just
20 wanted to start off and (unintelligible) thank you to the
21 staff for preparing the (unintelligible) package which will
22 (unintelligible). I, for one, am excited how
23 (unintelligible) the State to get back on track in terms of
24 opening back up the businesses safely, of course, for the
25 legislature to (unintelligible), and for (unintelligible)

1 workers to get back to their regular lives.

2 I know we have a lot (unintelligible) with the
3 vaccination rate, but everything seems to be pointing in the
4 right direction in terms of California getting
5 (unintelligible) on track and having a thriving economy once
6 again.

7 It's also difficult to get my comments out. I hear
8 myself echoing, so I will leave it there and
9 (unintelligible).

10 CHAIR DALZELL: Sure. Thank you for your remarks.
11 Commissioner Horrocks.

12 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: I will echo Commissioner
13 Rice's gratitude for the fact that (unintelligible). While
14 (unintelligible) excitement I (unintelligible) California
15 and (unintelligible) start getting back to a more normal
16 state. I think we have a lot (unintelligible) opportunity
17 in front of us. And I'm also going to echo Commissioner
18 Rice's comment about hearing the echo. So I will pass it to
19 (unintelligible).

20 CHAIR DALZELL: Thank you.

21 Commissioner Wong.

22 COMMISSIONER WONG: Yes. (Unintelligible) is there
23 any way that we can (unintelligible) the echo? Okay.

24 Anyway, I'm going to comment on the fact of
25 (unintelligible) is the -- Tom -- Tom (unintelligible). And

1 I think that it's a good sign that the businesses are moving
2 forward (unintelligible) life moving on and that
3 (unintelligible) the biggest question is whether or not the
4 standard of living is going -- rising, or stable, or
5 (unintelligible). I think this is something that I want to
6 (unintelligible) positive sign that things are moving
7 forward and businesses are opening up. So I would think the
8 normal is the -- is the direction that (unintelligible)
9 going forward.

10 CHAIR DALZELL: Does that conclude . . . ?

11 COMMISSIONER WONG: Yes, that concludes my comment.
12 We lost Tom.

13 CHAIR DALZELL: Oh, now -- now I hear you again,
14 yeah.

15 Do you hear me?

16 COMMISSIONER WONG: Yes.

17 CHAIR DALZELL: Okay, great. So the last thing I
18 said was to make sure that Commissioner Wong had concluded
19 her opening comments that she has. I have a few.

20 No, I -- as I look at California, I'm remembering
21 being in 11th grade . . . and the very famous first line is
22 it was -- it was the best of times, it was the worst of
23 times. And as Commissioners have noted, there are very good
24 things happening in California right now. We have a -- a
25 high vaccination rate, a low infection rate, a substantial

1 surplus in the State budget. That's all in the best of
2 times.

3 The worst of times the economy took a big hit and
4 more importantly we've lost . . . family and neighbors
5 and -- and loved ones to the -- to the pandemic.

6 So what do we do here? I would remind my fellow
7 Commissioners several things that I mention each -- each
8 meeting. The first is the -- the amount of money that we're
9 tasked with -- with looking at or talking about as a
10 percentage of the State budget is not statistically
11 significant. It -- it makes no difference in . . . State
12 spends. In practice with the legislators it does not effect
13 the budget at all because the -- each house has a -- a
14 certain amount that they get and whether the salaries go up
15 or down they still get that amount and it gets spent. It
16 doesn't change the lump sum amount.

17 And, lastly, what we do is not the end of the line.
18 Last year we took action. We approved an increase. And,
19 yet, almost every . . . officer voluntarily returned or did
20 not take I think \$10,000 of their salary for the year in
21 light of the sacrifices that other State employees were
22 making.

23 So there -- there is a -- a symbolic value to what we
24 do. But this is really not about saving money, it's -- it's
25 about what is the appropriate thing to do in -- in light of

1 what's going on.

2 We know that . . . four point two percent increase
3 they will have the money that was reduced reinstated. And
4 on top of that they will be getting a four point two percent
5 increase.

6 So those -- those are the cards that we have been
7 dealt in terms of the economy, the budget, the -- the affect
8 of what we do.

9 That concludes my opening comments. We now move into
10 a -- into a -- into a . . .

11 Is there anybody who would like to take us to the
12 next step of -- of what we should do in light of -- of all
13 that -- all that we know is going on?

14 COMMISSIONER WONG: Commissioner, do you -- do you
15 mind (unintelligible) increasing four point two percent
16 moving forward? I could hardly hear you.

17 CHAIR DALZELL: That is what the State employees who
18 are not subject to our jurisdiction will receive is a four
19 point two percent increase. That might be a -- because of
20 that it might be appropriate. But I'm not at this point
21 saying that it is or making a motion that it is. I was only
22 showing that data that -- that we had.

23 Commissioners, are -- are we all still here?

24 COMMISSIONER WONG: We -- (unintelligible) I am here.

25 CHAIR DALZELL: All right.

1 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: (Unintelligible) I am still
2 here.

3 Thank you Commissioner Wong for making that
4 clarification, asking the clarifying question of
5 Commissioner Dalzell.

6 I think you have (unintelligible) out a good point
7 but I think (unintelligible) for the State employees which
8 we technically are talking about here today (unintelligible)
9 elected folks who are (unintelligible) California. I would
10 be supportive of increasing the salary (unintelligible) too.
11 But due to more common (unintelligible) my fellow
12 (unintelligible) where I (unintelligible) your motion.

13 COMMISSIONER RICE: Commissioner Rice. Would you
14 repeat the suggested increase? I'm still getting a
15 (unintelligible).

16 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: It is four point two percent.

17 COMMISSIONER RICE: Four point two.

18 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: Four point two percent.

19 COMMISSIONER RICE: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: Absolutely.

21 COMMISSIONER RICE: My comment, four point two
22 percent, it seems a little high given the current state of
23 the economy and the cost of living increase expected to be
24 at one point three percent as opposed to the suggested
25 (unintelligible) and four point two. However, if that's

1 consistent with the expected increase for the rest of the
2 employees, that's definitely something to consider.

3 CHAIR DALZELL: Commissioner Wong.

4 COMMISSIONER WONG: (Unintelligible) what
5 Commissioner Horrocks and Commissioner Rice is
6 (unintelligible) talking about. Four point two is on the
7 high side. I -- I -- but I believe that one point three may
8 be on the low side. So my personal view is to
9 (unintelligible) four point two (unintelligible) point two
10 percent.

11 COMMISSIONER RICE: Thank you Commissioner Wong for
12 making the recommendation of the one point three. I think
13 that (unintelligible) that is (unintelligible) increase for
14 the year. I do think four point (unintelligible) is high,
15 but somewhere in the two point five (unintelligible) to
16 three percent range is pretty standard in the increases that
17 I've seen that are (unintelligible) this year.

18 CHAIR DALZELL: You know, I'm -- I'm wondering what
19 is the -- what is the rationale for treating legislators and
20 constitutional officers less favorably than every other
21 State employee remembering that every other State employee
22 gets a -- a pension that legislators do not get. And also
23 remembering that as a result of the cuts in wages during the
24 recession of legislators, the salary of legislators right
25 now is barely what it was -- it's barely reached the point

1 where it was ten years ago. It's recovered.

2 At a time when State employees had furloughs it did
3 not have the effect of reducing their base salary so that
4 when the economic times improved, they reverted to their old
5 salaries to getting all of it . . . did not revert because
6 they'd actually seen cuts.

7 So my -- my sense is that given the difficult times
8 in which they are serving -- and I think that the -- the
9 good job that they're doing -- I mean, California has a lot
10 to be proud of and . . . certainly played a role in our high
11 vaccination rate and our low infection rate and, really, a
12 budget that unlike many states and like local jurisdictions
13 is -- is really -- our treasury's in good shape.

14 So I would -- I mean, we don't have a motion yet, but
15 I personally would -- would support and -- and think that
16 the four point two percent that every other State employee
17 is getting is appropriate for the . . .

18 COMMISSIONER WONG: This is Margaret Wong. I believe
19 I just heard Commissioner (unintelligible) comment and
20 (unintelligible). I think that we have to find
21 (unintelligible) why the -- you know, the officials have to
22 (unintelligible) public employees are getting. And I always
23 look at the (unintelligible) of what we -- (unintelligible)
24 State. And also (unintelligible) public employees are being
25 paid for.

1 So I agree with Commission -- what Commissioner
2 Dalzell was talking about, we should at least
3 (unintelligible) public employees (unintelligible) percent.

4 COMMISSIONER RICE: This is Commissioner Rice.
5 Sorry, did I -- (unintelligible) heard that. I keep hearing
6 a really bad echo.

7 This is Commissioner Rice. I appreciate Chair
8 Dalzell's comments about the lack of (unintelligible)
9 retirement. That is something that I find interesting in
10 reading over this (unintelligible) report (unintelligible)
11 taking into consideration.

12 Also, we know that the legislature is going to be
13 opening back up. We know that (unintelligible) is going to
14 be opening back up to the public. We know that there is
15 still a great chance to become infected with COVID when you
16 are working in a facility that (unintelligible) with access
17 to. We can treat them as essential workers and I would
18 agree that we should -- can you still hear me?

19 CHAIR DALZELL: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER WONG: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER RICE: Thank you. I can't hear myself
22 any longer.

23 And I think that we should move forward with the same
24 percentage that the employees are receiving, the four point
25 two percent.

1 I would make a formal motion for that increase at
2 this time.

3 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: I will second that motion.
4 Do we need to take a formal vote?

5 CHAIR DALZELL: Yeah, I -- I mean, have we -- have we
6 moved towards a consensus that -- if so, if it seems like
7 we're at a consensus or close to a consensus is there a
8 motion to increase the -- the salaries of legislators and
9 the constitutional officers by four point two percent?

10 COMMISSIONER RICE: This is Commissioner Rice. I did
11 make that motion.

12 CHAIR DALZELL: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER RICE: And I believe Commissioner
14 Horrocks seconded the motion.

15 CHAIR DALZELL: All right. So then yes. Let's
16 call -- let's --

17 (Speaking over each other).

18 CHAIR DALZELL: (Unintelligible) yeah, public
19 testimony comes now. So could we describe, please, what
20 anybody from the public should do if they have a comment to
21 make now?

22 MALE VOICE: At this point if someone attending would
23 like to make a comment then, just raise your hand and you
24 can (unintelligible) would like to hear comments.

25 COMMISSIONER WONG: Perhaps you could

1 (unintelligible) raise your hand.

2 MALE VOICE: So officially I do not see
3 (unintelligible) in this (unintelligible) meeting from
4 the -- from the public at this point.

5 CHAIR DALZELL: All right. So that's the -- we
6 will -- all -- although the period for public testimony is
7 identified in a specific place in the Agenda we do have
8 to -- briefly have to go across -- go over the staff reports
9 and then we'll get to the -- to the vote.

10 I'm not sure that we're doing things in the best
11 order. But that's the way I've always done it.

12 The staff reports, we all have a -- we have a binder
13 that we . . . the contents and it's all available on the
14 Commission's website.

15 The first material is the Resolution from 2020.

16 We then have a comparison of State elected officials
17 from California, Texas, New York, Florida, Illinois,
18 Pennsylvania, Ohio, actually -- et cetera, et cetera,
19 through the states. (Unintelligible) that salary survey.
20 And this is information that we've had in our packet
21 although the -- the initiative that created us does not
22 include that as something we should look at. We've looked
23 at it and found it informative.

24 Then we have a salary survey of California city
25 elected officials. And as we have seen in the past, we see

1 that . . . the elected officials, be they -- the equivalent
2 of our constitutional officers or city councils as the
3 equivalent of our legislators, our -- our -- at least in the
4 big cities and big counties a -- considerably more than
5 State people.

6 We then have the data for city officials, county
7 officials. We have school district superintendents paid
8 considerably more than the -- the State equivalent.
9 Superior court judge salary reports, this is something we
10 are directed to -- to look at as a -- as -- as part of the
11 initiative that created us. And the judicial branch is
12 compensated . . . or legislative.

13 And then we have exempt salary chart, State Civil
14 Service adjustment report that shows the minus last year.
15 That's going to be reinstated.

16 Legislators, where we see that we don't have pensions
17 from our legislators. And the summary of our constitutional
18 and legislative officer benefits, summary of superior court
19 benefits, the certification of the positive balance in the
20 Special Fund for economic concern which is the condition
21 precedent to us increasing it.

22 So as always, you know, this is really . . . and
23 without whom we could not do our job. You know, we -- we
24 meet for an hour a year or so, and behind the scenes they're
25 doing a lot of work for us. So thank you for that.

1 Do any of the Commissioners have any comments on the
2 staff report?

3 COMMISSIONER WONG: I (unintelligible) in the past
4 I've seen a chart that gives us a rundown of the
5 (unintelligible) of compensation, but I don't see that this
6 year. Is that something that we can get (unintelligible)?

7 CHAIR DALZELL: Well, you're right, we have it from
8 last year, so we can get out last year's binder and know
9 what we did last year. But that . . . that's -- that's what
10 instructs us that we've barely gotten back up to the levels
11 that existed 12 years ago. But I agree with Commissioner
12 Wong that it is -- would be good to include that.

13 COMMISSIONER WONG: Yes.

14 CHAIR DALZELL: Any -- any . . . staff reports?

15 All right, so we have -- and absent any public
16 testimony -- has anybody raised their hand digitally to
17 speak?

18 MALE VOICE: Not at this point.

19 CHAIR DALZELL: All right. Good.

20 So we will -- we have a motion, we have a second to
21 increase the salaries of constitutional and legislators --
22 constitutional officers and legislators by four point two
23 percent.

24 MALE VOICE: Tom, I'm not sure if you're talking
25 right now. We do have a question that came in. Let me know

1 when you would like to address this.

2 CHAIR DALZELL: Go ahead. We'll do it before we take
3 a vote.

4 ANGELINA: Tom, this is -- this is Angelina
5 (phonetic).

6 CHAIR DALZELL: Yes.

7 ANGELINA: I just wanted to make a quick comment
8 about the four point two percent that you mentioned.
9 (Unintelligible) agreement (unintelligible) employees is
10 (unintelligible) point five five percent (unintelligible)
11 salary increase. So I just wanted to -- to make that note.

12 CHAIR DALZELL: Well, never mind everything I said.
13 I -- I -- I remain comfortable with four point two percent.
14 . . . grand pitch for treating legislators and executive
15 officers the same as other State employees. I'm -- I'm
16 happy with the four point two. If anybody wants to suggest
17 four point five five instead, we can I guess -- in a
18 parliamentary sense we can modify the motion or vote this
19 down and have a new one. But I -- I remain happy with four
20 point two percent.

21 COMMISSIONER WONG: I support that position.

22 COMMISSIONER RICE: And I, Nichole Rice, as the
23 motion maker also support that position.

24 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: I support that as well.

25 CHAIR DALZELL: All right. So was it Angelina who

1 had her hand raised or was there somebody from the public?

2 MALE VOICE: There is from the public --

3 CHAIR DALZELL: Okay.

4 MALE VOICE: -- asking if the materials from the
5 binder are available on the website.

6 CHAIR DALZELL: Typically they . . . answer that
7 question.

8 FEMALE VOICE: The reports are available
9 (unintelligible) after the meeting.

10 CHAIR DALZELL: All right. So that answers that
11 question.

12 Are we ready to -- to -- to vote, have the -- the
13 call on the vote?

14 All right, let's call the vote.

15 FEMALE VOICE: Tom Dalzell.

16 CHAIR DALZELL: Yes.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Margaret Wong.

18 COMMISSIONER WONG: Yes.

19 FEMALE VOICE: Nichole Rice.

20 COMMISSIONER RICE: Yes.

21 CHAIR DALZELL: And Laura Horrocks.

22 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: Yes.

23 CHAIR DALZELL: The motion has been approved by all
24 members of the Commission. And speaking for myself, and
25 I -- I think probably for the other Commission . . . change

1 in things what we have just done does not preclude
2 legislators or executive officers, constitutional officers,
3 from doing as they did last year which is foregoing part of
4 their salary in -- in -- in keeping with what's going on.

5 But I believe that our work here is done. And next
6 year -- next year in person I hope . . . that -- we -- we
7 have this hour together that's only possible because of the
8 really good and difficult work that you do. So thank you.

9 Any other parting remarks from Commissioners?

10 COMMISSIONER WONG: (Unintelligible) in person and
11 thank you for the team (unintelligible) all the work
12 (unintelligible).

13 CHAIR DALZELL: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER RICE: Thank you again to the staff.
15 This is Nichole Rice. Thank you to my fellow Commissioners
16 for dealing with technical difficulties and also
17 (unintelligible) as well. I'm also hoping that we can
18 resume in person if safe to do so next year.

19 CHAIR DALZELL: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: (Unintelligible) this is
21 Commissioner Horrocks. Thank you everyone for the work that
22 goes into putting into the binder, and hosting this meeting,
23 and it's great to see everyone today.

24 CHAIR DALZELL: With all that I will adjourn this
25 meeting and wish everybody good health and good economy.

1 And I guess we click our red Xs and say goodbye until next
2 year.

3 COMMISSIONER WONG: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER RICE: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER HORROCKS: Thanks everyone.

6 COMMISSIONER WONG: Goodbye.

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CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

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I, DONNA K. NICHOLS, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of California, duly commissioned and a disinterested person, certify;

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That the foregoing transcript is a record of the audible statements of all parties made on the digital recording.

Dated: JULY 13, 2021



DONNA K. NICHOLS, RPR
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