

**February 2021 Los Angeles Regional Policy
Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2021**

Introductions (via chat) Nancy Volpert, Co-Chair and Minty Siu-Kootnikoff, Co-Chair

2021 Legislation

a. State

As usual, everyone who had access to the prior bill chart should have access to the Google Doc that is this year's bill chart. If you don't have access and need access, please contact dcohanghadosh@ifsla.org for access to the Google Doc. The Google Doc Bill Chart is a live document and gets updated at least monthly.

State- assignments of bills made from the bill chart. For specific details, please review the Bill Chart. If you have bills to add, please let Nancy and/or Minty know. After assignments made, assigned persons should follow their bill to provide updates to the group at subsequent meetings, and provide context and relevance of the bill to the group. Everyone who hasn't yet taken on a bill is welcome to take one on, please let Nancy or Minty know so you can be added onto the chart. This is a fully interactive committee meeting.

b. Federal

the most significant pending federal legislation is the American Recovery Act, Biden's \$1.9 Trillion Covid Relief Act, which was discussed last week at the DVC general meeting's New Laws Presentation

c. Local

Jerilyn with Now and the Peace Alliance points out that the proposal for the City of Los Angeles to have its own Office of Violence Prevention is still pending and there has been no movement. Nancy remarks that it can be discussed as a local issue without remaining on the emerging issues list

Emerging Issues

a. New DA Gascon Policies Impacting DV

Nancy welcomes Stephanie Mire, new Acting Head of the Family Violence Unit at the District Attorney's Office (Stephanie in turn greets Gail Pincus and acknowledges her work as an expert witness). Stephanie reports the following post 2/08/21 preliminary injunction policies affecting DV:

Juveniles will not be transferred into the adult system

Death sentence is off the table

Strikes will be back to enhance sentences, except as follows:

Juveniles

Mental illness

Strikes that are more than five years old

Dismissals will only be for good cause

Enhancements shall be allowed, except as described above

Special circumstances, i.e., life sentence without possibility of parole, will no longer be filed; those cases now facing life without possibility of parole will be re-analyzed

No change to the prosecution of child physical and sexual abuse cases, enhancement can be added, except for prior strikes

Bail schedules to remain, there is no \$0 bail policy

No body attachments for DV witnesses, if witnesses are uncooperative the case to be dismissed rather than having an arrest warrant issued against the victim

No resentencing of cases sentenced over 120 days previous, good cause required for resentencing cases more recent than that; concerned victims should contact their DDA

No enhancements except for when there are "extraordinary circumstances" such as cases that "shock the conscious," so no longer includes use of knives, broken noses or broken fingers

b. Licensing of Paraprofessionals

Julia of LAFLA reports that the State Bar created a paraprofessionals working group to have paraprofessionals provide substantive legal advice and do substantive legal work; this would not be a paralegal, because these would be persons not working under the supervision of a licensed attorney. An active subcommittee on piloting this proposal is working on a large scale pilot potentially in Family, Housing, and Consumer Law in both urban and rural jurisdictions. This is a constantly moving target, and there will be a more formal opportunity to provide public comment in May; for more information or to participate, please reach out to jolee@lafla.org

c. Measure J Implementation

Hector of Disability Rights California participated in Measure J implementation workgroup, which features 5 subcommittees including capital development, health/mental health, education, housing, and reentry programs. DV is recognized as a high need topic, and all subcommittees want to hear from the DV community. Racism is also recognized as a subject of high importance. First set of recommendations to be reported in mid-March

Zack of DWC clarifies that the reallocation of baseline 10% of county expenditures under Measure J will phase-in over the next three years, with no specific financial outlay for this fiscal year.

d. LAPD Call Report

Still in very preliminary consideration stage, and there is no new information, but there are thoughts about diverting some calls to a dispute resolution team to deal with business disputes, landlord/tenant disputes; there would be challenges in making such a dispute resolution team 24/7

e. Intersection of DV + Veterans

Was placed agenda last month as an emerging issue but the person who requested topic did not appear to discuss

Matters not on the posted agenda (to be presented and placed on a future agenda)
none

Public Comments not to exceed two minutes per person and must be on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council

Minty asked that if anyone has comment about the LASD service of RO issue to please contact her this week, its urgent

Next meeting is scheduled for **March 18, 2021**

Adjourn