

City of Duarte
Public Services Commission
March 10, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Dalessandro led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Dalessandro, Riley, Rodriguez, Teleke, Tovar Absent:
Staff: Jordan, Rocha

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

City Manager Dan Jordan was in attendance. He welcomed the Commissioners, thanked them for their service, and explained that the evening's topic regarding Los Angeles/Orange County Regional Broadband Consortia (LA/OCRBC) attempts to build out broadband services is important to the residents of Duarte.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice Chair Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes. Chair Dalessandro seconded the motion, and it was approved by unanimous vote.

6. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Kevin Harbour, BizFed Institute President thanked the Commission for inviting BizFed Institute to present and explained that the Safer at Home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic catalyzed LA/OCRBC's efforts as it became abundantly clear that access to broadband was limited in certain areas. The LA/OCRBC's focus is getting the cities and counties to collaborate on removing the inhibitors and obstructions for ISPs to be able to roll out broadband capacity including wireless and fiber.

Mitchell Vierya, Senior Program Director for BizFed Institute, then shared a presentation on the LA/OCRBC's formation, work-to-date, endorsements, and objectives.

Commissioner Riley asked why L.A. County has not had a Consortia until recently. Mr. Vierya explained that after financial issues, the Consortia went dormant until now. Chair Rodriguez confirmed that it was the pandemic that made communities more aware of how lack of connectivity is a pervasive problem.

City staff asked if endorsements from cities to support the CPUC funding for application was still useful to the Consortia. Mr. Vierya confirmed that all endorsement letters are still useful and suggested that a City of Duarte representative could attend Consortia General Meetings.

City staff stated that we have received complaints that providers are only providing a maximum of 10mbps in the Royal Oaks Park area.

Commissioner Riley asked if the grant would fully fund these projects and if the Consortia would facilitate bringing in new providers. Mr. Vierya stated that the grant would fund the projects, but if not received, they'd search for other funding. He also noted they don't currently bring in new providers, but may consider assisting with something like that.

Chair Dalessandro motioned to recommend that the Duarte City Council send a support letter for the LA/OCRBC's CPUC funding application. Commissioner Riley seconded, and it was approved by unanimous vote.

7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION MEMBERS None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dalessandro adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.