

The Orange County Board of Supervisors.....June and July

Whoa, it was a “hot and heavy” June and July at the BOS! A final annual budget due makes for a difficult and argumentative time, but the fact that four of the five supervisors had their names on the June ballot might also have been a factor.

The ballot box results:

Two supervisors ran for a second 4-year BOS term. Supervisor Bartlett was unopposed; Supervisor Steel will be on the Nov. Ballot with a large lead from the June primary. Supervisor Spitzer, ran for District Attorney and came in second, so he also will be on the Nov. ballot. Supervisor Nelson is termed out and ran for Assembly in the 39th. District but did not win one of the top two spots.

!!!! THE OFFICE OF AUDITOR/CONTROLLER IS DRASTICALLY CHANGED!!!!

Auditor/Controller Eric Woolery asked for a budget of \$19,359,742 and an augmented \$656,570. The BOS eliminated the augmentation. They established a separate Internal Audit Dept. and reduced his budget by \$656,570. They will **re-establish the Internal Audit Dept.** (Orange County is now one of the very few counties that do not have an Office of Auditor/Controller under one hat.) Supervisor Spitzer was the only NO vote.

The Office of Independent Review was established after the death of John Chamberlain in the OC Jail. It was then eliminated on the charge of not reviewing the Sheriff's Dept. and the District Attorney's Office adequately. Now funding for the OIR is budgeted but the restoration of the office is composed of only a secretary and a director and the ONLY JOB of the OIR is to “explore the nexus between law enforcement and social services in addressing the homeless crisis (per work plan submitted by Chairman Do.” Supervisor Spitzer was the only NO vote.

Renewed city contracts for law enforcement by the OC Sheriff Dept. instead of a local Police Dept. These contracts are **only for one year at a time** and once again, Supervisor Nelson was very irate. He asked what the County would do if/when a city decides to leave the OC Sheriff Dept.? “That’s \$133,154,941 for law enforcement personnel and equipment for Yorba Linda, Villa Park, Stanton, San Clemente, Aliso Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Dana Point, and Mission Viejo.”

An amendment to the Three Year Program and Expenditure Plan for Mental Health Services Act, Prop 63 programs and services was approved. \$15 million will go for a Special Needs Housing Program Assignment agreement with California Housing Authority. The plan is now a cumulative total of \$583,862,051.

Dear Reader, you can get so much more info on the OC Board of Supervisors by going online at ocgov.com, click on Depts. and then on BOS agenda.

Stay tuned.....never a dull moment!

Wanda Shaffer, ILO, NOC