

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' ACTIVITIES

The newly inaugurated Chairperson is Michelle Steel. Supervisors Andrew Do and Todd Spitzer are returning to the BOS after the November election.

There was considerable discussion of the Nov. ballot's marijuana Prop 64 measure. Supervisor Spitzer was concerned with his district's large areas that would favor the open growth of the crop. He "would like an outright ban" but realized enforcement would be needed. CEO Frank Kim had comprised a working group on the issue but they had only met once so far. Supervisor Nelson reminded the Board that they could not use personal opinions. He advised they accept the reality that they cannot ban the growth and mobile delivery anywhere. There was discussion of appointing 2 BOS members to the CEO committee but County Counsel Leon Page reminded them that such action would open up the committee to the Brown Act.

The BOS has reduced the Public Address time allotment down to 3 min. and only at the beginning of every meeting. There has been public unhappiness with this. There were 58 speakers at the last meeting and it lasted close to 2 hours before any agenda items could be addressed. 3 speakers were the same citizens that speak at every meeting. 18 speakers were representatives of an OC employee group that has been in 8 months of negotiations after many years of no raises, pointing out that 75% of their members were women. The other speakers were all representatives of companies with lease contracts up for renewal with the John Wayne airport. The BOS felt there was price fixing over a 6-year period. There is a lawsuit pending.

Closed sessions were held concerning appointing the Executive Director of the new office of Campaign Finance and Ethics Commission. This has taken a long time to address....it was approved by the voters in the last June ballot. No action reported.

The Board hired a new Executive director of the OIR (Office of Independent Review). The office had not been filled for many months; the Board was displeased with the last director, claiming there was a lack of communication from him. However, the newly appointed director resigned shortly after the hiring. Seems there would be a conflict of interest with the firm he still works for.

The OC Crisis Stabilization service for adolescents now has increased available beds from 10 to 22. This will cover from 7/1/17 to 6/30/20 at a cost of \$23,983,573. The mental health and medical advocates has stressed this is a sorely needed increase.

The Orange County Superior Court has opened a new call center for information and services about criminal cases and traffic court cases. Help is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. It is a 24-hour a day, all week, service. There is an automated reporter or there is a customer service representative from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. M – F.
1-657-622-8459.

Submitted by Wanda Shaffer