

OC BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, FEB. 27 MEETING

Wanda Shaffer, ILO

** This was the first meeting held since the change in the public addresses. The public now may address the BOS at the beginning of the mtg. if they wish to speak on an item from the "Consent Calendar". Then when the "Discussion Items" are to be started, they may also ask to address the Board. Usually after a lunch break, the Board returns and announces "Closed Session" items that can be made public and once again, the public may speak on items they feel are important to them. The three chances at speaking are stipulated that they must be in writing and presented before the item comes up for Board discussion. At this first meeting of the new rules, no persons spoke before the Consent Calendar or during the Discussion Items. A few irate citizens said they did not know of the new ruling and were unhappy with having to wait until after lunch to speak. This observer thought it went well.

** The meeting was mainly made up of discussions and votes on grants, contracts, amendments, and department reports.

** Of interest however was the Consent Calendar item on the OC Fraud Hotline annual report. The public and county employees can report welfare fraud, misconduct of an employee, employer, contractor, etc. This can be done by phone or email and **both can be anonymously submitted** if desired. www.ocgov.com/service/fraud.asp or phone 714-834-3608. The phone caller will receive a password and a "callback" date for possible further details. The Fraud Hotline Team can have an outgoing written message to the filing party asking for more information, but still preserve the right to anonymity.

The OC Fraud Hotline was established Sept. 1994, then was inactive during the County bankruptcy and reinstated May 1996. The OC Internal Audit Dept. "enhanced and improved" it from Dec. 2004 until

the Dept. was eliminated August 2015. Now the OC County Counsel Office is responsible for the administration of the OC Fraud Hotline.

The annual report for 2017 states the number of cases amount to approximately the same as the years 2014-2017.

44 cases acted upon.

131 cases referred to appropriate depts., (DA, Soc. Services, Auditor/Controller.

201 telephone referrals

14 Non Actionable items.

46 Fraud Hotline cases were closed.

16 (35%) were substantiated.

136 (68%) were not substantiated.

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Next Board of Supervisor meetings are held in Santa Ana, OC Hall of Administration, on Tuesday March 13 and 27, starting at 9:30 a.m. See you there or you can watch it online. Visit the ocgov.com website for instructions.