

Orange County Board of Supervisors..... August and Sept.

The OC Campaign and Ethics Commission may *finally* become a reality! The voters of OC passed the forming of the Commission in June of 2016. *Almost a year later*, April of 2017, the BOS has hired Executive Director Dena Hoard, a lawyer for 23 years, she had been an asst. attorney for Santa Ana and a legal counsel for the CA State University system. *Finally* Sept. of 2017, Supervisors Nelson, Steel and Spitzer have nominated their districts Commissioners! Supervisor Nelson appointed Peter Agarwal, an Anaheim bank manager. Supervisor Steel appointed Josh Ji, an Irvine lawyer, admitted to the CA Bar less than a year ago, Supervisor Spitzer appointed Honorable Judge Tam Nomoto-Schumann, a member of the CA Judges Association for 2011-2018. Although Supervisors Bartlett and Do have not yet stated their appointees, Supervisor Spitzer happily reported that *now* the BOS has a quorum and can the appointees can conduct a random draw of lots for the length of terms of office. (The campaigns for the 2018 elections are fully underway already!)

***Finally the BOS resolved starting recruitment for the OIR, the Office of Independent Review!* The office has been vacant for months. In a June public address the OC ACLU, while criticizing the OC Jail System, stressed that the OIR must be an independent office.**

Evidently the OC Fire Authority and the OC Sheriff Dept. had a Memorandum of Understanding concerning who reports to the calls for help. However, it cannot be found! So the two groups are now undergoing talks for a new memorandum. It needs to be hurried since the “lost old MOM” stated it would end in 60 days. Seems both groups show up at the urgent call scenes and there is a concern that there may helicopter and crew mishaps unless it is clarified who reports when. Is it a ‘search and rescue’ or is it a ‘person needs help’ scenario? Stay tuned!

The BOS renewed a \$1,650,000 contract with the Midnight Mission to direct the homeless scene at the Courtyard in Santa Ana. This was the old Transportation Center. The 2 hours of public addresses offered two scenarios. One side complained of the untrained staff, of guards making arbitrary evictions, that “non-legalized security caused violent crimes”, and those crimes have increased. The other side spoke of their appreciation for help and recovering. A Sister of St. Joseph’s urged the BOS to put homeless on all the committees and give them leadership. The speaker from OC Home and the Legal Aid Society commented that they were against the inclusion of Anaheim’s “Home Safe” plan and the Sheriff Dept. formulating a plan of involvement. They stated they felt it would be a “criminalizing act”. Asst. Sheriff Barnes replied that it would be a seven-day a week staffing, working with the cities as a team.

**Once again, the BOS spent a good amount of time on the homeless problem. Supervisor Nelson stated at the end of the discussion, with exasperation, “We’re missing Step 1 = triage! WE NEED PROPERTIES to send people to, in sections zoned w/bus stops, freeway, and food banks. We don’t have anywhere to send them.” We found property already zoned for homelessness and yet we couldn’t get cities to let the homeless in. NIMBY!
(Almost all experts agree it needs to be homes and shelters.....when will our society start making room? This reporter made this last statement.)**

ILO Observer/Reporter Wanda Shaffer