

PRESS RELEASE

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Ronald K. Ikejiri, Chairman of the Citizens' Economy and Efficiency Commission of Los Angeles County (Commission), announced today that the Commission has completed the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' (Board) request to review the implementation and effectiveness of the new County governance structure. Under the new structure, which took effect April 26, 2007, the Board retained final authority on both legislative and executive/administrative matters, consistent with its Charter responsibilities. Operationally, however, the Board delegated significant day-to-day administrative authority to a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

When asked about his perspective on the report, Chair Ikejiri stated, "The Board asked for a honest review and reckoning of the new County governance structure, and we have submitted 8 recommendations for consideration by the Board."

Chair Ikejiri stated, "The Commission report should be viewed from the perspective that the budget for the County of Los Angeles would place it within the top Fortune 100 Corporations in the United States. When dealing with a corporate structure of this size, with 40 operating Departments, employing over 102,000 employees and serving 10 million customers, the findings from the interviews provides encouragement that the new governance structure is working. In my experience, there are not many Boards of corporations that are willing to have their CEO, Department Heads and staffs provide candid evaluations of its own corporate management. The Board is to be commended for their leadership in seeking transparency of their governance management."

A special Task Force led by Commissioner John Fuhman, over the past 5 months, has conducted one-on-one interviews with elected, and appointed County leaders and administrators. The candid and open sharing of management and operational strengths and weaknesses, clearly show that the new governance structure is being embraced by the County Departments, and given additional time and more defined Deputy Chief Executive Officer responsibilities the efficiency and effectiveness of the structure will be improved.

The Board's goal was to encourage horizontal and vertical collaboration across Departments in the delivery of County Services under the new governance structure. The new County governance structure allows the Board of Supervisors additional time and resources in the development of policy and future vision for our County.

In its report, the Commission recommended that the Board consider implementing the following eight recommendations in an effort to further promote the success of the new governance structure and to enhance the delivery of County services:

Recommendation 1: The Board consider maintaining the new Ordinance until a more definitive evaluation can occur.

Recommendation 2: The Board consider delaying any changes to the County Charter until the suggested evaluation can occur.

Recommendation 3: The Board consider directing the CEO to develop a job description that explicitly states the role and responsibilities of the Deputy Chief Executive Officers.

Recommendation 4: The Board consider directing the CEO to establish communication protocols between the CEO's office and Board deputies; between the DCEOs and Department Heads; and between the Departments and Board offices.

Recommendation 5: The Board consider directing the Auditor–Controller, in coordination with the CEO, to (a) develop a set of organizational metrics to assess success in this new organization, and (b) direct the CEO to report annually to the Board on these assessments.

Recommendation 6: The Board consider directing the CEO to design a framework within which policy issues are identified, discussed and placed on the agenda for potential action.

Recommendation 7: The Board consider directing the Executive Officer to propose a new agenda setting process that enables the Board to reserve one meeting per month for policy deliberations.

Recommendation 8: The Board consider directing County Counsel to provide a legal opinion as to the applicability of the Brown Act to policy meetings between DCEOs, Department Heads, and Board deputies.

To view the complete report, please go to <http://eec.co.la.ca.us>