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## **Economy & Efficiency Commission Presentation**

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*Editorial Note: Although every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of the material in this presentation, the scope of the material covered and the discussions undertaken lends itself to the possibility of minor transcription misinterpretations.*

**PRESENTATION BY  
The Honorable Edmund D. Edelman**

**Currently Senior Representative for Homeless Issues for the City of Santa Monica  
Topic: Working in the Governmental System to Achieve Effective Results  
April 6, 2006**

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Chair Hill introduced Mr. Edelman and welcomed him to the Commission.

### **Current Responsibilities**

Mr. Edelman explained the responsibilities of his current position as the Senior Representative for Homeless Initiatives for the City of Santa Monica. He discussed his presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the Homeless Issue. He has also formerly served as a Senior Fellow with the Rand Corporation and currently as an Arbitrator.

### **Introduction of the Commissioners**

Mr. Edelman asked the commissioners to introduce themselves and to give a little about their background. The commissioners proceeded to introduce themselves. Mr. Edelman recognized the contributions of each of the commissioners.

### **Working in the Governmental System to Achieve Effective Results**

Chair Hill asked Mr. Edelman to address the ways he feels that the Commission can improve its ability to contribute to the effectiveness of county government. Mr. Edelman, while noting the background and abilities of the Commissioners, recognized the ability of the Commission to address problems with a unique perspective. Given the nature of the studies undertaken by the Commission and the ability to conduct most studies in-house, historically funding has not been an issue.

Mr. Edelman discussed the county plan to deal with the Homeless Issue in which the County is contributing approximately \$100M to the housing and \$20M for services. He suggested that the E&E Commission could contribute to the solution by looking at one or two aspects of the problem. There are some controversial issues that need to be addressed to bring some of the stakeholders together. There may be a role in considering elements of the plan being proposed. It is important to make sure that the plan is effective in solving the problem.

## Questions

Chair Emeritus Philibosian asked how it is possible to have one-time expenses in addressing the on-going homeless problem. Mr. Edelman stated that the one-time costs that have been identified are capital costs for housing. Although the County is in good shape this year Supervisor Knabe asked during the Board presentation how the \$100M figure was arrived at. The response was that this was the amount that could be allocated in this year's budget. The County supplies social services they have accepted much of this responsibility.

One of the ways to be effective in government is being able to determine what government needs and how it can be made better. The Grand Jury is one means by which this identification can be made. The Commission would be well served by following up on the recommendations made by the Grand Jury. It is important to continue searching out relevant issues for review.

Commissioner Baltierrez inquired as to Mr. Edelman's role in addressing the homeless issue. Mr. Edelman responded that he is trying to get the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles together to address this problem. Each jurisdiction has its own concern that requires a mediator and facilitator to resolve. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority is a joint powers authority created by the City and the County to assist in resolving some of the homeless problems facing local governments. This organization can bring together some of the conflicting policies of the jurisdictions involved.

Commissioner Parks expressed a concern over the ability of local governments to institutionalize homeless individuals because of the requirement to demonstrate that they are a danger to themselves or others. Commissioner Parks also expressed a concern over the health issues that can be present in this population. Mr. Edelman recognized that many of these individuals are resistant to services.

Chair Hill expressed her appreciation to Mr. Edelman for his presentation and commended him for his comments and his service to the community.

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