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Economy & Efficiency Commission Presentation

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.

**PRESENTATIONS BY
Mayor Michael Antonovich,
5th District, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County**

March 3, 2011

LA County Board of Supervisors-5th District

Chairman Barcelona greeted Mayor Antonovich, Supervisor of LA County's 5th District and welcomed him while turning it over for Mayor Antonovich to speak to the Economy and Efficiency Commission.

About the Mayor

Mayor Antonovich stated that he has served the two million residents of the County's Fifth Supervisorial District since 1980. He stated that in 1969, he was elected to the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees. He stated that in 1972, he was elected to serve in the California State Assembly. He also stated that he served three terms in the Assembly and raised the rank of Republican Whip from 1976 to 1978. He stated that in 1980, he was elected to serve the people of Los Angeles County as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

He stated that in his 30 years as a County Supervisor, he has been characterized by his commitment to public safety, effective and responsive representation and support for small businesses, foster children, seniors and veterans.

Mayor Antonovich stated that he also serves on the Board of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metrolink (Southern California Regional Rail Authority), Southern California Association of Governments, San Fernando Valley and San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Electronic Filing of Permits

Mayor Antonovich began with a story about "how to handle a dead horse". He stated that some people would buy a stronger whip that would be the way to getting the dead horse up and going. Some would change riders; some would appoint a committee to study the horse; others would suggest lowering the standards so that dead horses could be included; some would suggest you need more money or training to

increase the dead horse's performance; others would say they need to do a productivity study; others would rewrite the job performance requirements for all horses; and the last suggestion would be to promote the horse to a new supervisorial district. He stated that the reason he used this story is because at the board meeting about two weeks ago the Supervisors gave the Executive Office a five star County Award for performance. He stated that what the Executive Office was able to do with the Assessment Appeals Board (AAB) Process was to put it online; under the old system the taxpayer had to manually complete an appeal form, print it, sign and mail, or walk the form into the office. He stated that this manual process averages over 60,000 appeals per year. He stated that all these forms were submitted manually, and then the data had to be audited and processed for the hearing. He stated that the previous process was prone to many errors and mistakes and with the new automated system the process is beneficiary to the consumer and also the employees that handle the paperwork.

Mayor Antonovich stated that the Economy & Efficiency Commission should take a look into the feasibility of streamlining the County's Permitting Process by moving away from paper and towards an online system for submitting applications. He stated that currently if an entrepreneur wishes to open a restaurant currently the applicant would need to manually apply for permits from the following five agencies (1) Health Department, (2) Fire Department, (3) Department of Regional Planning, (4) Business License, and (5) Department of Public Works. Mayor Antonovich stated that these agencies are currently not centrally located. He stated that the County's one-stop centers do not house all five agencies.

Mayor Antonovich stated that there are no regular communications between these five Departments during the permitting process. He also stated that all permits are done on paper and there is no online submittal forms. He stated that the Business License Department needs a more modern computerized online system for applicants to file permits from the comfort of their own home. He stated that the benefits to applicants would be to have the ability to track permit online during the permitting process, save time from taking off from work to go to each department to get an approval, and the applicants will have a less chance to have omissions or mistakes on their permits and have to repeat the process again.

Mayor Antonovich stated that the Economy & Efficiency Commission has done an excellent job on the Civil Service Reform Analysis Report. He stated that the work that was done was superb. He stated that the Board is trying to move forward with the recommendations and had unanimous support from the Board of Supervisors. He also stated that he uses the E&E Commission as an example when speaking to various groups including political and service clubs, and even at the Chambers in Antelope Valley.

Questions

Chair-Emeritus Philibosian stated that the Commission did a Permit Streamlining Study a long time ago. Chair-Emeritus Philibosian asked if the Mayor would like the Commission to take another look at that report. Mayor Antonovich replied yes and that he would like the Commission to revisit that area and see what the task force can come up with. Chair-Emeritus stated that there were very good recommendation and it seems as if no one paid any attention. Mayor Antonovich replied that some recommendations were implemented and then the department regressed. He stated that this is an issue that the commission has to stay on top of.

Mayor Antonovich stated that he would just like to thank the Commission and ask that the E&E Commission take the time to pull out the old report on Permit Streamlining and try to get rid of some of the obstacles that make it difficult for the department and the consumer. Making this available online would get rid of congestion, and it will help improve air quality.

Commissioner Fuhrman asked why did the Mayor turned to the Executive Office to review the permit issues as opposed to the Chief Information Office (CIO). Mayor Antonovich replied that the Executive Office has the responsibility over the AAB.

Commissioner Kalm stated that there is a perception that this is an information technology issue. He stated that his view is that it is more a leadership issue. He stated that whoever is responsible for the given function needs to get up front on the fact of what is available to them and then go to the CIO or the departments own

IT personnel and give the department a plan on moving forward. He stated that he doesn't feel you can get it started at the IT level but instead it has to be started at the management level. Mayor Antonovich replied that he is absolutely correct.

Commissioner Ikejiri asked whether it be appropriate to do away with term limits for the County. Mayor Antonovich replied that he believe so. He stated that he opposed term limits when it appeared originally on the ballot. He stated that as a former State Legislator he sees how it has impacted the State Legislature. He stated that he spoke with some of his colleagues and they felt the same as he does. He stated that the Board of Supervisors is not perfect but the five of them communicate with one another a lot and work together a lot. He stated that the staffs are intricately involved. He stated that all officials should be held accountable if they do a bad job. He stated some officials want to spend more time on the golf course or overseas and that the people should be able to vote them out.

Commissioner Fuhrman asked if Mayor Antonovich think there is any appetite for ballot measures. Mayor Antonovich replied that it is possible. He stated that 24 hours ago who thought there would be a new owner in control of the Dodgers. He stated that things happen so fast and attitudes change rapidly.

Commissioner Hinsche-Otto stated that she liked the dead horse analogy. She stated that in a lot of ways she thinks that the E&E Commission is the Commission among the County that can tackle all kinds of things. She stated that maybe the Commission can't solve everything but the Commission is not a political base, there is no constituency to defend or report to, and it is the Commission's job. Mayor Antonovich stated that the Civil Service Report is long overdue. He stated that the time was right and he can't understand why that at the State level they are not doing the same thing especially when you have such a horrendous deficit that's impacting our bond rating and job creation.

Commissioner Balderrama asked if the Commission could take a look at the permitting process on Business License. He stated that a lot of businesses in LA County do not have a business license. He stated that he knows a few Car Wash businesses that don't need licenses. He stated that in the City of Monterey Park everyone has to have a business license. He stated with this issue arising there is a lot of lost revenues. Mayor Antonovich stated that the Board has not supported the Business License Tax. Commissioner Balderrama asked why. Mayor Antonovich replied that because they feel that they will get more businesses coming to our side without the tax.

Chairman Barcelona expressed his appreciation to Mayor Antonovich and invited him to come back to speak to the EEC in the near future and the Commissioners applauded.

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