



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

October 21, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

REQUEST FOR GRAND JURORS TO SERVE AN ADDITIONAL YEAR

On September 2, 2008, your Board considered County departmental responses to the 2007-08 Civil Grand Jury Report. With specific regard to the report and recommendations on the In-Home Supportive Services Program, your Board directed this Office to send a letter to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court requesting consideration of allowing jurors to serve a second term in order to benefit from their familiarity with this issue consistent with follow-up discussions and investigations. We issued our written request on September 12, 2008 and received an interim response from Presiding Judge J. Stephen Czuleger on September 16, 2008, indicating that he would investigate the request with those judges and staff most involved with this issue and provide a final response.

Attached is the Presiding Judge's subsequent response declining this request due to what the Court believes is unfavorable past experience with this practice and an inconsistency with the mission of the civil grand jury.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Martin Zimmerman at 213.974.1326 or mzimmerman@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:ES
MKZ:pg

Attachment

2008-10 - 10-21-08 Request for Grand Jurors to Serve an Additional Year

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

***Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only***



The Superior Court
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

CHAMBERS OF
J. STEPHEN CZULEGER
PRESIDING JUDGE

RECEIVED

2008 OCT 16 PM 12:19

October 8, 2008 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

TELEPHONE
(213) 974-5600

William T. Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer
County of Los Angeles
713 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: REQUEST FOR GRAND JURORS TO SERVE AN ADDITIONAL YEAR

Dear Mr. Fujioka:

We have received the request of the Board of Supervisors that the court allow up to ten civil grand jurors, who have served on the previous grand jury, to serve for a second year as allowed by Penal Code section 901(b). The basis for the request is a recommendation from the 2007-2008 Civil Grand Jury that certain of those jurors have gained enhanced familiarity with the issues involving the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, and wish to have this year's civil grand jury conduct a more in depth investigation of that program.

The court has past experience with permitting grand jurors to serve a second term on a civil grand jury. Unfortunately, the court found that the practice undermined the overall mission of the civil grand jury to serve as an secret, independent, and impartial "watch dog" of the affairs of local government. Reappointing selected grand jurors to facilitate a specific investigation is inconsistent with this mission and may inappropriately manipulate the new grand jury's agenda, and independent ability to focus on a wide range of affairs of local government.

One of the main purposes of a grand jury is to bring matters to the public's attention that require correction, further investigation, or change. It appears that last years grand jury was effective in that mission with regard to the IHSS program. Now that it has been brought to the attention of the Board of Supervisors, the County may wish to create a working group to focus on just this program, and may appoint to it those grand jurors who have gained enhanced familiarity with the issues involving that program.

Very truly yours,

J. Stephen Czuleger
Presiding Judge

JSC:gp