



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held April 18, 2006, the Board took the following action:

79

The following item was called up:

Consideration of the Chief Administrative Officer's recommendations related to the 2006-07 Proposed Budget; and order such revisions additions and changes to the Chief Administrative Officer's budget recommendations as deemed necessary and approve the revised figures as the Proposed Budget for 2006-07; instruct the Auditor-Controller to have the necessary copies printed; order the publication of the necessary notices; and set May 10, 2006 as the date that the public budget hearings will begin.

Following presentation by David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Molina, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Yaroslavsky and Knabe; Noes: None; Abstentions: Supervisor Antonovich (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board approved the Chief Administrative Officer's attached recommendations relating to the 2006-07 Proposed Budget and took additional actions as indicated below:

79.1

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

"Reducing the amount of time a child spends in foster care, working towards permanency for a foster child and ensuring child safety are critical priorities, and I am supportive of efforts to enhance the Department's ability to carry out these vital responsibilities.

(Continued on Page 2)

79 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.1 (Continued)

“The 2006-07 Proposed Budget recommends the addition of 466 ordinance items to the Department of Children and Family Services, at a total cost of \$16.6 million ongoing. I supported the addition of 301 new staff on an interim basis, as they would augment the Department’s child safety functions, as well as expand its permanency programs at a reasonable rate of growth.

“However, while I am supportive in concept of the permanent addition of 301 staff, I am concerned about approving the full recommendation of 466 staff, without receiving further information about how expeditiously the Department will bring the additional resources to bear and an indication as to how the effectiveness of such a large staff increase will be measured.”

“I therefore recommend that the Director of Children and Family Services, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer, report back during June Budget Deliberations to explain how the overall impact of the proposed 466 additional staff will be measured, as well as the feasibility of approving a portion of the staff items in June, and revisiting the need for the remaining items at mid-fiscal year, in January 2007.”

Dr. David Sanders, Director of Children and Family Services, answered questions posed by the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Molina offered an amendment to Supervisor Knabe’s recommendation that the Director of Children and Family Services’ report back with basic numbers and not necessarily with percentages or averages on how many children are getting out of the foster care system for the increased funding being provided. Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Molina’s amendment.

In addition, Supervisor Yaroslavsky offered an amendment that the Director of Children and Family Services report back to the Board two weeks prior to the June Budget Deliberations on all of the issues raised. Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s amendment.

(Continued on Page 3)

79 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.1 (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board instructed the Director of Children and Family Services, in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Report back two weeks prior to the June Budget Deliberations with an explanation on how the overall impact of the proposed 466 additional staff will be measured, in addition to all other issues raised;
2. Report with basic numbers and not necessarily with percentages or averages, on how many children are getting out of the foster care system for the increased funding being provided for the proposed 466 additional staff positions; and
3. The feasibility of approving a portion of the staff items in June, and revisiting the need for the remaining items at mid-fiscal year, in January 2007.

79.2

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“One of my ongoing concerns has been that our patrol resources within our unincorporated areas are insufficient. I have been advocating for more deputies to patrol our unincorporated communities. The Sheriff has had some difficulty in bringing qualified deputy sheriff candidates on board, but it is my understanding that more recently we have had a number of academy classes running that will help with our shortage of deputies. Last fiscal year, in anticipation of the Sheriff increasing deputy sheriff hires, this Board set aside \$13 million in a sheriff unincorporated patrol designation. This Board should take fiscal action this year to spend some of those dollars and increase our unincorporated patrol resources.”

Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a motion that the Board instruct the Chief Administrative Officer, in conjunction with the Sheriff, to report back during June Budget Deliberations with a fiscal and hiring plan to commence the expenditure of the unincorporated patrol designation.

(Continued on Page 4)

79 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.2 (Continued)

Sharon Harper, Chief Deputy Administrative Officer, answered questions posed by the Board.

After discussion Supervisor Molina offered an amendment to Supervisor Knabe's motion to instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to include in the report, language for a Memorandum of Agreement with the Sheriff on how personnel will be allocated to support the increased level of service in the unincorporated areas of the County. Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Molina's amendment.

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Molina, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer, in conjunction with the Sheriff, to report back during the June Budget Deliberations with a fiscal and hiring plan to commence the expenditure of the unincorporated patrol designation, including language for a Memorandum of Agreement with the Sheriff on how personnel will be allocated to support the increased level of service in the unincorporated areas of the County.

79.3

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"In Fiscal Year 2005-06, the Board set aside approximately \$13 million, with an additional \$5 million that will be added in Fiscal Year 2007-08 -- totaling \$18 million, to enhance unincorporated patrols. Some cities have had minor increases to their contracts which are being fulfilled on an overtime basis. The County's unincorporated areas have a similar need for increased patrols which may be addressed on an overtime basis, similar to cities, until we have increased staffing."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer, in conjunction with the Sheriff, to report at the June Budget Deliberations with a plan to expedite the increase of unincorporated patrols.

(Continued on Page 5)

79 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.4

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“The 2006-07 budget for the Department of Mental Health projects a \$48.3 million budget deficit. Through the stakeholder process the Department has already identified \$7.1 million in curtailments for the uninsured. These efforts to re-engineer its service delivery to the uninsured and the other mental health clients remain a challenge.

“Given the potential impact of reduction of services, it is prudent to continue to examine the current level of funding and develop alternatives to address the budget deficit and, as appropriate, mitigate the impact of any proposed service reductions with services funded through other revenue sources.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board instructed the Director of Mental Health in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer to develop and report back with a comprehensive plan that identifies operational efficiencies and multi-year service plan reductions to limit reliance on one-time funding sources, to resolve structural shortfalls, and financially stabilize the Department of Mental Health, with the report to be submitted for consideration before Budget Deliberations, which should also include a status of multi-year fiscal balancing plan efforts along with recommendations and options.

79.5

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“While this Board has allocated resources to increase staffing at the juvenile halls, staffing levels for the camps also require consideration.

“The Probation Department has been evaluating its staffing levels in the camps with the goal of redesigning the manner in which it serves the minors above and beyond providing minimum and basic level security.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, and by common consent, there being no objection (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Probation Officer to present, at the June Budget Deliberations, a comprehensive review of the staffing levels and necessary security enhancements in the Probation Camps.

(Continued on Page 6)

79 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.6

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“Within the Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget process it is critical that this Board be presented with recommendations that will facilitate the reopening of our Sybil Brand Institute. Given our recent jail disturbances and the Sheriff’s Department’s ongoing policy of 10% early release time for certain inmates, the Board needs to take fiscal actions now in order to begin taking additional steps that will move towards impacting the early release policy as the reopening of Sybil Brand Institute will likely be a multi-year endeavor.”

Therefore, Supervisor Knabe made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, that the Board instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back at the June Budget Deliberations with a plan to fully fund the \$160 million with existing County resources needed to reopen Sybil Brand Institute.

Supervisor Molina offered an amendment to Supervisor Knabe’s motion that community input be allowed during development of plans to reopen Sybil Brand Institute. Supervisor Knabe accepted Supervisor Molina’s amendment. Supervisor Knabe’s motion as amended was unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent).

79.7

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“The Sheriff’s jail house and security plan as well as the Chief Administrative Officer’s (CAO) jail facilities reports issued in March estimate the need for approximately \$170 million to reopen Sybil Brand Institute (SBI), a major component in dealing with jail overcrowding and security issues. While the CAO has indicated that \$20 million will be set aside in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget to fund design phase activities for this project, it is not nearly enough to jump-start the financing of a project of this caliber and level of priority for the County. Moreover, early financial planning for this project will prevent unnecessary delays due to inadequate funds. Such delays can increase the cost of construction with the steady rise in construction costs. As reported in the CAO’s report and by others, the SBI project was estimated at \$140 million only a year ago.”

(Continued on Page 7)

79 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.7 (Continued)

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, that the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer to identify necessary funds in the County's budget to reopen Sybil Brand Institute and report back before the June 26, 2006 Budget Deliberations.

Supervisor Molina offered an amendment to Supervisor Antonovich's motion that community input be allowed during development of plans to reopen Sybil Brand Institute. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Molina's amendment. Supervisor Antonovich's motion as amended was unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent).

79.8

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"In the Chief Administrative Officer's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2006-07 the Department of Animal Care and Control is only receiving \$12,148 million out of a request for \$13,033 million. The Chief Administrative Officer's budget proposal does not include 20 critical positions needed to enforce animal control throughout the County."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board directed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back on funding 20 additional Animal Control Officers at the June Budget Deliberations.

79.9

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Molina and Antonovich:

"Last fiscal year, because of unexpected revenue generated by property taxes and because the State budget was less harmful than anticipated, the County was able to restore the funding for critical local services such as Public Libraries, Parks and the COPS program in the unincorporated areas of the County.

(Continued on Page 8)

79 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.9 (Continued)

“Today the Board has another opportunity to enhance the infrastructure for many of our unincorporated areas whose residents use vital and critical services on daily basis.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to develop recommendations to enhance the infrastructure in the unincorporated areas with one-time available funds from the Designation for Budget Uncertainties and report back before the June 26, 2006 Budget Deliberations.

79.10

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“The County has been the beneficiary of a strong real estate economy over the past few years, and as a result has seen a substantial increase in discretionary property tax flowing into its coffers. It is primarily due to our strong local economy that Los Angeles County has been able to avert drastic cuts to our Health Services Department as we have used this increased funding to fill an ever increasing structural budget deficit. Over a two-year fiscal period it has been recommended to this Board that new net County cost funding of over \$300 million be used to cover the Health Services budget gap. We have been in an enviable position to be able to afford these recommendations and continue our great health safety net for our most vulnerable residents. This path, however, is probably not sustainable over the long term, and thus it is necessary to redouble efforts to create new Federal, State or other outside revenue streams, as well as generate real savings from purported system efficiencies.

(Continued on Page 9)

79.1 through 79.10 (Continued)

79.10 (Continued)

“Given the precarious health budget situation, it may not be prudent to be adding over 800 new positions to the Health Department. While some of these items, such as the nursing positions, are critical and must be given to the Department, it may be necessary to look at some of the administrative positions with a more critical eye. It has been past practice to carry over Health Department savings in salaries and benefits from one year to the next to help offset the next year’s operating deficit. The allocation and filling of all of the requested 800 positions could eliminate any such savings and further exacerbate the Department’s structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2007-08.”

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Burke being absent), the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Health Services to report back during the June Budget Deliberations with additional justification and performance measurements for the approximate 100 administrative positions included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Sheriff
- Auditor-Controller
- Chief Deputy Probation Officer
- County Counsel
- Director of Children and Family Services
- Director of Mental Health