

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND  
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APRIL 21, 2009

Last year the Board of Supervisors voted to implement a Hearing Examiner program in the Department of Regional Planning. The intent of the program was to provide a local venue for the public to testify, rather than the current program whereby individuals must travel to downtown Los Angeles on a weekday morning. As part of the program, a planner would be sent to various unincorporated communities to conduct public hearings concerning proposed land-use projects. The vast reaches of our County unincorporated communities, combined with taking time off from work, traveling in rush hour traffic, and paying for expensive parking, make participation in these public hearings extremely difficult for constituents. The Hearing Examiner approach is long overdue in our land-use review process.

The Hearing Examiner program was to be phased in gradually beginning in the middle of 2009. Given on-going budget constraints upon the County's overall budget and mandatory 5% curtailments in all departments, the Acting Director of Regional Planning is postponing implementation of the Hearing Examiner program.

Public testimony on projects that impact our lives, homes, and communities should not be a privilege. The Board and Chief Executive Officer should make very effort possible to identify funding for the Hearing Examiner program.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with the Acting Director of Regional Planning to determine what other funding options are available for the Hearing Examiner program and report back to the Board during final consideration of the budget in June of 2009.

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