

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisory District Four
Supervisor Ken Yeager



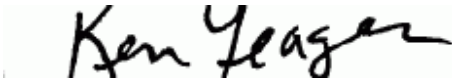
BOS4-062409-04

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Board Aide

Reviewed by: John Mills
Chief of Staff

DATE: June 24, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: 
Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District 4

SUBJECT: Referral regarding revisions to the Rules of the Board of Supervisors as to the timing of reappointments to Boards and Commissions

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Refer to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Counsel a request to bring forward through the Finance and Government Operations Committee recommended changes to the Rules of the Board of Supervisors that would clarify the timing of reappointments to Boards and Commissions.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The current practice of reappointing commissioners to continue serving on our county boards and commissions only following the expiration of their terms has created unnecessary angst and confusion for the commissioners themselves, the commissions, the Board offices, and the public.

Because the terms for our boards and commissions expire on June 30 and the Board of Supervisors recesses for the month of July, commissioners seeking reappointment have historically been compelled to wait until August for the Board to take action on reappointing them to their seats. Many Boards and Commissions meet in July, thereby potentially leaving these commissions without some members for that month, because many sitting commissioners have

been under the false impression that they are no longer official commissioners until reappointed by the Board. This situation further adds to the challenge of achieving a quorum that many boards and commissions routinely face.

County Counsel has advised that the Board may legally reappoint commissioners prior to the expiration of their terms. However, the Rules of the Board of Supervisors and the literature the County publishes (such as the Appointment List) associated with the boards and commissions appointments process do not reflect County Counsel's opinion.

The Rules of the Board and all relevant boards and commissions-related materials should be revised to provide the public explicit notice that these seats may be filled in advance of term expiration, as opposed to only after a vacancy occurs.