

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA# VIII. B

Urgent _____ Routine X *aw*

AGENDA DATE May 1, 2001

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES X NO _____
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES _____ NO X

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE RESPONSE TO MAYOR SABATINO'S MISLEADING COMMENTS ABOUT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' INTENTION REGARDING THE ELECTIVE STATUS OF THE CLERK-RECORDER POSITION

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. APPROVE THE TRANSMITTAL OF THE RESPONSE TO MAYOR SABATINO'S MISLEADING COMMENTS ABOUT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' INTENTION REGARDING THE ELECTIVE STATUS OF THE CLERK-RECORDER POSITION

FISCAL IMPACT:

NONE

No. 2001-338

On motion of Supervisor Simon, Seconded by Supervisor Blom
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

Motion:

Christine Ferraro



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Pat Paul, 1st District
Thomas W. Mayfield, 2nd District
Nick W. Blom, 3rd District
Raymond Clark Simon, 4th District
Paul W. Caruso, 5th District

1010 Tenth Street, Suite 6500, Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: 209.525.4494 Fax: 209.525.4410

April 24, 2001

Honorable Carmen Sabatino
Mayor
City of Modesto
1010 10th Street, Suite 6200
Modesto, CA 95354

RE: COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Mayor Sabatino:

We were disappointed to receive your letter regarding County Clerk Recorder and Registrar of Voters, Karen Mathews. Our disappointment stems from your failure to pick up the phone and ask if the Board is considering any of the changes contemplated in *The Bee* editorial.

Instead, you criticize, threaten, and make implications regarding the County somehow (unspecified of course) making it impossible for Karen Mathews to do her job. You then go on to hope for voter confidence based on your letter as if you have single handedly stopped the Board from doing something.

Let us state, as the Board of Supervisors, that *The Bee's* editorial must have been driven by rumor and innuendo. Your letter is driven by only what you think, not what you know.

Ms. Mathews is at home getting relief from a very stressful job and rest that her doctors have recommended. They believe her long-term health will benefit from this respite. Ms. Mathews requested, after consultation with the Chief Executive Officer (who consulted with Board Members, the Clerk-Recorder's staff and CEO staff who have supported the Clerk) interim support and management of the office.

The Chief Executive Officer has pledged full support to the Assistant Registrar of Voters and the Assistant Clerk-Recorder, and has arranged for Judy Ferreira, former County Librarian, to fill-in as day-to-day management support. Her duties will primarily be focused on the 2001-02 budget submittal, human resource issues and customer service problems.

Ms. Mathews is still the Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters. It is premature for you or anyone else except Ms. Mathews herself to assume she will not return or finish serving out this term and seeking re-election. Your statement about finding a caretaker until the next election is at best insensitive, creates a false impression, and does Ms. Mathews a significant disservice.

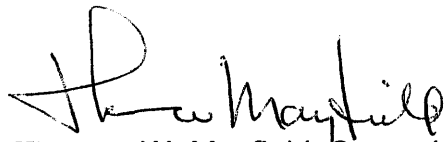
The Board of Supervisors has a very strong track record of supporting our elected department heads who support all the residents of the County and its nine cities. Over the years, we have provided the staff, equipment and additional funds needed by Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters office in preserving and protecting our right to vote in fairly administered elections in accordance with the law.

Hopefully, the voters will not lose confidence because of your uninformed remarks and the total unfounded assumptions under which you seem to operate. I would hope that next time you "think" there is a problem, you find out first then write your letter.

Sincerely,



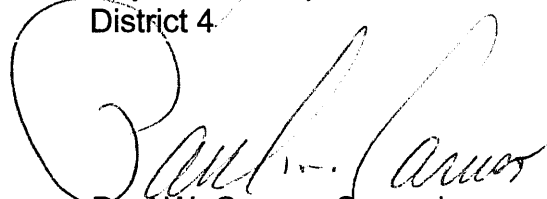
Pat Paul, Chair
District 1



Thomas W. Mayfield, Supervisor
District 2

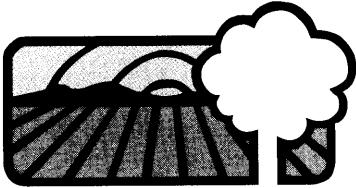


Ray Simon, Supervisor
District 4



Paul W. Caruso, Supervisor
District 5

(Not Available to Sign)
Nick W. Blom, Supervisor
District 3



CITY of MODESTO

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April 20, 2001 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Carmen Sabatino
Mayor

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Modesto, CA 95353
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209/571-5586 Fax

Hearing and Speech
Impaired Only
TDD 209/526-9211

Supervisor Pat Paul, Chair
Stanislaus County
Board of Supervisors
1010 Tenth Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Re: Modesto Bee Article – County Clerk's Office

Dear Chairperson Paul:

The Modesto Bee article concerning County Clerk Karen Matthews was very disturbing. It is important that this office remain in the hands of the people of Stanislaus County. The idea that this could become an appointed office by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors is totally unacceptable to me.

As Mayor of the City of Modesto, I will oppose any effort by the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Executive Officer or County Counsel to change the system we now have.

Reasonable third parties, will ultimately determine whether Stanislaus County has made it impossible for the County Clerk/Recorder to do her job.

I am asking your support in opposing any effort to make the County Clerk/Recorder an appointed position. The integrity of this office is a cornerstone of our democracy. Surely, we can find a caretaker until the next election.

Hopefully, the voters' confidence will be restored with your support for my request and I am sure you join me in wishing Ms. Matthews a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,

Carmen Sabatino, Mayor

CS/ke