

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
SUB COMMITTEE on APPOINTMENTS
MONDAY, MAY 27, 2008, at 4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Chair: Bronz. Members: Burton. STAFF: Vita.

GUESTS: Marguerite Beirne, Chief Information Officer; Maxine D. Howard, Taxi & Limousine Commission; Kevin Mahon, Commissioner of Social Services.

Legislator Bronz called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

Marquerite Beirne: Is a resident of Larchmont, New York and has been appointed by the County Executive, in accordance with Section 110.21 of the Laws of Westchester County, as the Chief Information Officer, effective May 18, 2008, replacing Norm Jacknis, former Chief IT Officer.

Ms. Beirne was formerly employed by MBIA Insurance Corporation as the vice President of IT Planning and Administration, where she was responsible for financial planning, expense management, security, business analysis, professional training, disaster response and recover, policies, procedures and audit facilitation. She mentioned that working for the County will be challenging, but it has come along way and she will able to deliver her duties with efficiency and professionalism.

Both members feel that with Ms. Beirne's extensive background, knowledge, and experience, will prove to be an asset to this Department.

On the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Burton, the appointment was approved by a 2-0 vote.

TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION:

Maxine D. Howard: Is a resident of Ardsley, New York and appointed by the County executive as a member, for a term to expire on December 31, 2009. She is filling in the term vacated by Trevor Franklin who resigned. She has been attending meetings since February and was recommended by Barbara Monahan. She is an attorney by trade with a background in broadcast journalism, and has served as the Acting Village Justice and deputy Mayor in the Village of Ardsley.

Ms. Howard does not foresee any stumbling blocks, there are minor problems and with prom season around the corner, this will be a good learning experience.

On the motion of Legislator, Burton, seconded by Legislator Bronz, the appointment is hereby approved by a 2-0.

Submitted by: Emilia Vita
Approved: 9/8/08

MINUTES
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SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS
MONDAY, MAY 27, 2008, at 4:00 P.M.
Page 2

COMMISSIONER –DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

Kevin Mahon: Is appointed to a new term of office as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services, by the County Executive, in accordance with Section 110.21 of the Laws of Westchester County. His appointment will commence on June 8, 2008 and expire on June 7, 2012. (Pursuant to Section 116 of the NYS Social Services Law, the term of Commissioner-DSS is 5 years).

The Commissioner said he still has a job to do and there is much more to accomplish in the Department, but there is no better place than Westchester to be in. There have been many challenges over the last several years, reduction in case loads from 300 to 200 and performances have been better. All programs are top notch, serving more people, and there are a number of more challenges to overcome plus the negative press to overcome even more. There is a new Senior staff that has energized the department, there is a great crew on board, and with new staff, the department can move forward for a better daily flow.

Mrs. Bronz asked about the case loads, staff and status of several programs that include:

- CPS - staff gets “burnt out”, staff is now interchangeable and with the new changes improvement is starting show and the unit will be up and coming again
- Child Support Services - is #1 in the County;
- Housing – it’s a challenge, but with a Housing Summit coming up in August, it will lead the Department into a new direction;
- Child Fatality Report – the program has been successful, but there are some strengths and weaknesses that still need to be worked on.

The commissioner said there are many programs and services that remain with problems, and those issues and concerns will be addressed.

Mr. Burton admires what has been done in the department over the past few years and commended the Commissioner and his staff. Mrs. Bronz thanked Mr. Mahon for his time and congratulated him on the improvements in the Department.

On the motion of Legislator, Burton, seconded by Legislator Bronz, the appointment is hereby approved by a 2-0.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.