



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 6.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Matt Maloney, Deputy Chief of Staff

Date: April 12, 2011

Re: Regional Tax Policy Task Force Representation

Cook County Representation

At its February meeting, the CMAP Board approved 13 of 14 members to the Regional Tax Policy Task Force. On March 16, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle nominated Zahra Ali to represent Cook County on this task force. Ms. Ali serves as Appointed Director and Acting Director of the Cook County Department of Revenue. Ms. Ali's biographical information follows.

Suburban Municipal Representation

On April 12, 2011 the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus recommended two replacements for the existing municipal representatives on the task force. They are Larry Hartwig, Mayor of the Village of Addison, and Karen Darch, President of the Village of Barrington. Please see the accompanying memo from the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus for more information.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

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Zahra Ali

▪118 N. Clark Street, Chicago IL 60602 ▪office: 312-603-5498 ▪Email:Zahra.ali@cookcountyil.gov

Strategic and seasoned senior manager with proven record to manage complex and challenging projects. Expert in architecting initiatives that supports the business vision and strategy to achieve financial goals and objectives. An objective and result driven leader with ability to manage interpersonal relationships with internal and external stakeholders, vendors and other county agencies.

Areas of Expertise

- Strategic Planning
- Leadership & Management
- Project Management
- Process Improvement
- Financial Management
- Budgetary Direction
- Regulatory Compliance
- Executive Decision Making
- Relationship Management
- Service Level Agreements
- Vendor Management
- Revenue Growth

Experience

Cook County Government Department of Revenue

Appointed Director

March 2010 – Present

Acting Director

October 2009 – February 2010

- Responsible to manage the Cook County Department of Revenue comprising of 4 divisions with 33 full time associates with an annual revenue forecast and collection of \$372 million and audit assessment of over \$10 million annually.
- Oversaw an annual department budget of \$2.5 million.
- Received 2010 NACo (National Association of Counties Organization) Achievement Award for initiating the program “Strategic Plan: Looking Ahead towards Modernization” for the new operational vision of the department.
- Led the treasury management solution of lockbox and e-payment initiative to improve revenue collections of \$372 million and streamline the processing of over 100,000 transactions annually.
- Implemented an automated process to capture jeopardy assessments of over \$30 million of delinquent and deficient tax collections over a 5 year time period.
- Chaired and led the initiative for County wide debt collection and credit card acceptance projects to provide the first collaborative solution for all County Agencies to utilize services for debt recovery and a payment acceptance method to receive revenues.
- Secured approval and kicked off the first Web Based Application process for the County General Business License for unincorporated businesses.
- Successfully proposed and in process of implementation of Home Rule Tax Ordinance amendments, which enhance compliance and enforcement, create consistency of fines/penalties, definition updates, recognize best applied practices, and achieve in FY 2011 approximately \$4.6 million in increased revenues.
- Instituted working relationships with the Cook County Department of Administrative Hearing and Office of the States Attorney and performed various special operations with the Office of the Sheriff.
- Outlined an Integrated Tax Processing System proposal to Implement a complete web based, streamlined tax process which begins with registration, on-line filing, assessments, audits, notifications, refunds, account maintenance, and tax management with a vision to improve operational efficiencies, enhance revenue growth and compliance, speed, accuracy and ease of tax filing and payment management processes.

Cook County Government Department of Revenue

April 2008 – September 2009

Deputy Director

- Spearheaded efforts to review all business processes and identified areas for immediate reengineering.
- Collaborated with business partners to evaluate existing processes and identify missing revenue gaps.
- Created and implemented comprehensive roadmap for the department to set vision, transparency and accountability.
- Initiated review of Cook County Home Rule Tax Ordinance amendments to yield a potential of over \$7 million dollars.
- Carried out major collection agency efforts in processing accounts of over \$4 million, revising process flow and developing new reporting framework.
- Developed charters for the key project initiatives to enhance revenue enforcement and growth opportunities.

Cook County Government Department of Budget & Management Services

June 2007 – March 2008

Deputy Director

- Maintained a high level of satisfaction, by closely being a part of the preparation and monitoring of development of the annual appropriation of Cook County, which is over \$3 billion dollars.

- Managed team of 7 analysts to provide financial and business support for over 5 million residents across Cook County.
- Responsible for the budgetary process starting from the President's Budget Recommendation, to the Amendment process, the Final Appropriation Bill, in addition to the Mid-Year Transfer of Funds and Mid-Year Budget Accountability Review.
- Managed multiple requested impact analysis, cost analysis, and budgetary reduction scenarios within time sensitive deadlines.
- Responsible for monitoring departmental expenditures, maintaining FMIS position file, and understanding functions of over 90 departments across Cook County.

Cook County Government Department of Budget & Management Services June 2006 – May 2007
Administrative Analyst V

- Managed a variety of financial and budgetary tasks for the Bureau of Health, which is the 3rd largest public hospital system in the nation with an operating budget of over \$700 million dollars.
- Conducted research, analysis and translated complex information to effectively prioritize activities and achieve defined objectives throughout the annual budget process.
- Consistently maintained communications and met with department heads and directors to identify budgetary constraints and plan possible solution to accommodate smooth fiscal budget cycle.
- Led an effort to work with the Bureau of Health to identify cost saving opportunities by thoroughly analyzing and verifying each dollar budgeted.
- Analyzed processes within many departments under the Bureau of Health to determine areas which can effectively improve process, workflow, time management, contract management, and health care services.

Cook County Government Department of Budget & Management Services December 2002 – May 2006
Budget Analyst

- Established and maintained communication with various assigned departments/bureaus in developing their annual budget appropriations.
- Prepared preliminary budget analysis prior to the budget hearing processes and assisted in developing assigned departments budget.
- Consistently worked on the FMIS application for position control for various departments across Cook County.

Education

Keller Graduate School of Management
Master in Business Administration
Major: Finance

Loyola University
Bachelor of Business Administration
Major: Finance Minor: Management

Membership

- Member of Loyola University Alumni Association
- Member of the Government Finance Officers Association
- Participant of the Federation Tax Administrator & National Association of Counties Organization (NACo)



Richard M. Daley
Mayor, City of Chicago
Founding Chairman

Larry Hartwig
Mayor, Village of Addison
Executive Board Chair

Edward J. Zabrocki
Mayor, Village of Tinley Park
Executive Board Vice Chair

TO: Gerald R. Bennett, Chairman, and Board Members
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Randall S. Blankenhorn, Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

FROM: David Bennett, Executive Director
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

DATE: April 12, 2011

RE: Recommended Replacements for Municipal Representatives to
Regional Tax Policy Task Force

The Officers of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus met today to consider recommending replacements for two of the municipal representatives to the CMAP Regional Tax Policy Task Force. This was necessitated by Mayor Edward Schock's unfortunate loss in the municipal election last week in Elgin as well as the unexpected retirement of Doug Ellsworth as Finance Director of Schaumburg. Our Officers are pleased to recommend *Larry Hartwig, Mayor of the Village of Addison*, and *Karen Darch, President of the Village of Barrington*, as their respective replacements.

Mayor Hartwig is currently Chairman of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Board and a Past President of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference. He has also served on the Caucus' Education Reform Committee and was instrumental in the drafting of the Committee's recommended policy statement on education funding and fiscal accountability reform. He has been Mayor of Addison since 1995 and is a retired teacher and administrator.

President Darch is Secretary of the Caucus' Executive Board and a Past President of the Northwest Municipal Conference. She has served on the Barrington Village Board since 1995, the last six years as Village President. President Darch is an attorney by profession. She is also a member of the Lake County Municipal League and the Barrington Area Council of Governments.

The Mayors Caucus believes that Mayor Hartwig and President Darch have interesting and unique perspectives on tax policy issues from their many years of experience as municipal officials and regional leaders. We are very confident they will prove to be valuable contributors to the Regional Tax Policy Task Force.

City of Chicago · DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference · Lake County Municipal League · McHenry County Council of Governments
Metro West Council of Governments · Northwest Municipal Conference · South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Southwest Conference of Mayors · West Central Municipal Conference · Will County Governmental League

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