

Mission Statement  
to the Friends  
of the  
Ventura County Commission for Women

The Ventura County Commission for Women has expressed a desire for a change in its relationship with the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women.

Because the Commission feels an impasse has developed between the two groups, the Commission has opened a dialogue with the intended purpose of resolving conflicts so that business may continue on behalf of the women of Ventura County.

Therefore, the Commission approaches the Friend's Board of Directors in an effort to find common ground, and an acceptable solution which permits the Commission to continue its relationship with the current Board of Directors.

The Commission reiterates to the Friends that the Commission bears responsibility, as designated by the Board of Supervisors, for developing and carrying out projects to benefit the women of Ventura County.

The Commission believes its support group was formed to provide financial and other assistance for these projects. Unfortunately, a situation has developed in which the Friends has adopted an adversarial and watchdog role over Commission activities, instead of a supporting role, as originally intended.

(In order to remedy this situation,) the Commission restates its responsibility to plan and conduct programs that it feels are in the best interests of the women of Ventura County. The Commission also wishes to restate the purpose of the existence of its support group: i.e., to support the programs, projects and goals of the Commission through fundraising, publicity and volunteer assistance.

Because the Commission appreciates the many hours devoted to the business of the Commission by members of the Friends and its board, we ask the board to consider adopting a number of changes in the working rela-

tionship between the two groups:

1) That the Commission, once it has decided <sup>on a</sup> its course of action (with input from all parties, including the Friends,) invite a representative of the Friends to serve as a member of the Commission's task force or committee to establish a budget for the event. Once this budget is decided, however, the Commission requests that the Friends observe their charter by agreeing to support the Commission by allocating the financial assistance or other mutually agreed upon methods to deliver the assistance requested by the Commission.

2) That at least one member of the Commission be appointed to serve as a permanent member of the Board of Directors of the Friends.

3) That the Friends of the Commission for Women consider instituting an outreach program with the express purpose of increasing its base of support and establishing a broader representative of membership from women throughout the county;

4) That the Friends engage in a dialogue with the Commission in a series of meetings to examine the following, among other issues:

a) Mutually agreed upon revision of the Friends' articles of incorporation and bylaws to more specifically reflect the needs and desires of the Commission in sponsoring a support group;

b) Establishment of specific terms of office for directors;

c) The adoption of acceptable social service practices in allocation of funds for overhead needs;

d) The establishment of mutually agreed upon methods by which funds raised by the Friends can be disseminated to the Commission

e) A greater role for the Friends in participating in activities designed to enhance the position of women throughout Ventura County;

f) A joint examination of fund raising needs for the Commission

g) Establishment of long-range goals for both groups working together



to achieve together;

h) A discussion of ways the Commission can enhance or meet the needs of the Friends; and

i) The development of a joint mission statement for both parties.

The Co-chairs are pleased to have this opportunity to discuss these issues with the Board of Directors of the Friends.

In addition, the Commission wishes to express its profound appreciation to the individuals who have devoted so much selfless time and effort to the great cause of the advancement of women in society. ]

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Ventura County Commission for Women

The Ventura County Commission for Women has expressed a desire for a change in its relationship with the Friends of the Ventura County Commission for Women. [Therefore, the Commission has opened a dialogue with the Friends for the intended purpose of working out better procedures to serve the needs of the women of Ventura County.]

The Commission is approaching the Friend's Board of Directors in an effort to find common ground which will permit the Commission to continue its relationship with the current Board of Directors.

The Commission reiterates to the Friends that the Commission bears responsibility, as designated by the Board of Supervisors, for developing and carrying out projects to benefit the women of Ventura County. The Commission believes its support group was formed to provide financial and other assistance for these projects. Unfortunately, a situation has developed in which the Friends has adopted an adversarial and watchdog role over Commission activities, instead of a supporting role, as originally intended.

[The Commission feels strongly that each group has a unique role and that by collaborating within the confines of those roles, the interests of women will be enhanced throughout the county.]

(Accordingly,) the Commission restates its responsibility to plan and conduct programs that it feels are in the best interests of the women of Ventura County. The Commission also wishes to restate the purpose of the existence of its support group: i.e., to support the programs, projects and goals of the Commission through fundraising, publicity and volunteer assistance.

Because the Commission appreciates the many hours devoted to the business of the Commission by members of the Friends and its board, we ask the board to consider adopting a number of changes in the working relationship between the two groups:



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1) That the Commission, once it has decided its course of action, invite a representative of the Friends to serve as a member of the Commission's task force or committee to establish a budget for the event. Once this budget is decided, however, the Commission requests that the Friends observe their charter by agreeing to support the Commission by allocating the financial assistance or other mutually agreed upon methods to deliver the assistance requested by the Commission.

2) That at least one member of the Commission be appointed to serve as a permanent member of the Board of Directors of the Friends.

4) on other version  
3) (That dialogue continue on a regularly scheduled basis on the following issues: a) That the Friends of the Commission for Women consider instituting an outreach program with the express purpose of increasing its base of support and establishing a broader representative of membership from women throughout the county; b) Mutually agreed upon revision of the Friends' articles of incorporation and bylaws to more specifically reflect the needs and desires of the Commission in sponsoring a support group; c) Establishment of specific terms of office for directors; d) The adoption of acceptable social service practices in allocation of funds for overhead needs; e) The establishment of mutually agreed upon methods by which funds raised by the Friends can be disseminated to the Commission; f) A greater role for the Friends in participating in activities designed to enhance the position of women throughout Ventura County; g) A joint examination of fund raising needs for the Commission; h) Establishment of long-range goals for both groups working together to achieve together; i) A discussion of ways the Commission can enhance or meet the needs of the Friends; and j) The development of a joint mission statement for both parties.

The Co-chairs are pleased to have this opportunity to discuss these issues with the Board of Directors of the Friends.