

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jim Venable

SUBMITTAL DATE: June 2, 2004

SUBJECT: Business License's / Permits

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board direct the Executive Office to determine the proper terminology, procedures and fee structure to institute a countywide business license program and bring a recommendation to the Board in 30 days.


BACKGROUND: In March 2000, this Board directed the Executive Office to research the feasibility of implementing a business license fee in Riverside County. The Executive Office found that several urban counties (i.e. Ventura, Contra Costa, Los Angeles, San Mateo and Alameda) have adopted a business license fee and listed the benefits of that process as follows:

- Improves information on new and existing businesses in the unincorporated area for County strategic planning and management purposes.
- Improves information, integration and interaction with the County's economic development efforts and programs.
- Provides for ease and efficiencies in business reporting as Internet applications are utilized.

After that report was completed four years ago, the Board decided not to implement a business license fee at that time; rather, they directed the Executive Office to work in conjunction with the Treasurer – Tax Collector to increase Sales Tax and Transient Occupancy Tax collection and enforcement efforts.

I believe now is a critical time to reexamine this important issue. With the current State budget crisis and its ongoing detrimental effect on our County, I feel that it is prudent to again fully research the feasibility of a countywide business license fee. Riverside County would benefit by having this tracking device in place. The business community would benefit by having all businesses operating on an open, level playing field.

The cost of the license should only reflect the cost of administering the program and should not be used as a source of revenue for the County.


Jim Venable, Supervisor
Third District
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