



1300 I STREET, SUITE 125
P.O. BOX 944255
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2550
Public: (916) 445-9555
Telephone: (916) 324-5433
Facsimile: (916) 324-4293
E-Mail: tom.greene@doj.ca.gov

September 30, 2009

Andrew Poat, Chair
Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission
530 B Steet, Suite 700
San Diego, California 92101

Re: Resignation from the Commission

Dear Andrew:

It is with real regret that I write to resign as a commissioner for the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. Having the opportunity to serve the commission and the mental health communities of California has been an important experience for me. I enjoyed very productive associations with you, other outstanding commissioners and a very capable staff. I learned from all of you about the challenges facing those suffering from mental illness and the great opportunities we have to stamp out stigma and create cultures of wellness and resilience in California.

I particularly want to thank you and vice-chair Larry Poaster for your support and insights into the work of the Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee. As chair, I found your input invaluable. I also want to extend my special thanks to former chair Linford Gayle, whom I see as a shining example of what can go right if we can transform the current treatment system. I need to extend my special thanks to several members of the MHSOAC staff, notably Janna Lowder, Carol Hood, Beverly Whitcomb, Jose Oseguera and Filomena Yeroshek, among many others.

The reason for this surprising letter is that I have been asked to serve as the executive director of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. This is a congressional commission charged with the responsibility of investigating the causes of the national financial crisis. Our final report is due to the Congress, the president and the public not later than December 15, 2010.

The model for this commission is an investigation and report in the 1930's that explained the causes of the depression. That report substantially shaped modern securities and banking regulation. Our job will be to update that work, taking into account lightening-fast international securities markets, securitization, derivatives, credit default swaps and other new financial instruments. The task—particularly in the given time frame—is daunting but the opportunity to serve the nation is remarkable. In the end, I could not say no to this opportunity.

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I will be in Washington, D.C. starting next week, but I wish you, our fellow commissioners and the MHSOAC staff my warmest wishes for success in the tasks before you. Your work is truly that of the angels.

My best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Greene', with a horizontal line underneath.

THOMAS GREENE

cc: Howard A. Kahn, Commissioner MHSOAC
Linford Gayle, Commissioner MHSOAC
Beth Gould, Commissioner MHSOAC
Mary Hayashi, Commissioner MHSOAC
Patrick Henning, Jr., Commissioner MHSOAC
David Pating, M.D., Commissioner MHSOAC
Larry Poaster, Ph.D., Commissioner MHSOAC
Darlene Prettyman, Commissioner MHSOAC
Larry Trujillo, Commissioner MHSOAC
Eduardo Vega, Commissioner MHSOAC
Richard Bray, Commissioner MHSOAC
Richard VanHorn, Commissioner MHSOAC
Sen. Lou Correa, Commissioner MHSOAC
Janna Lowder, MHSOAC
Carol Hood, MHSOAC
Beverly Whitcomb, MHSOAC
Jose Oseguera, MHSOAC
Filomena Yeroshek, MHSOAC
Stacie Hiromoto, Member, Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee
Dede Ranahan, Member, Mental Health Funding and Policy Committee
Sen. Darrell Steinberg
Kiyomi Burchill, Legislative Aide
Shannon M. Chambers, Deputy Attorney General
Jim Humes, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General