

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under section 60835 of title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. This is a report by Bureau staff in compliance with that responsibility.

Name of Applicant: Stanley R. Forbes

Information: In his third essay answer on his supplemental application, Applicant wrote that “California is our nation’s most diverse state, and there is every reason to believe that that diversity will only increase given immigration and the higher birthrate of our new residents.” Bureau staff asked Applicant to explain what he meant by this statement. Applicant responded that he read somewhere that in California, Hispanic and Asian populations have a higher birthrate than the Anglo-Saxon population. Because the Hispanic and Asian populations of California are growing, and because those populations have historically higher birth-rates, he concluded that California’s diversity will continually increase, with the percentage of “non-Anglo’s” increasing at a faster pace than the population as a whole, expanding the rate of diversity. Applicant explained that this is not a “new diversity, per se,” just greater diversity. He added that when he served on his local school board in the 1980’s or 1990’s, he placed an emphasis on initiatives that would have helped students become bilingual because he believed this skill would become increasingly useful.

Research by staff discovered that Applicant has written several articles for the *Davis Enterprise* newspaper. Applicant also told staff that he was a columnist for the newspaper between 2000 and 2004. Applicant authored two articles in October 2009 supporting a measure in the City of Davis concerning an in-fill project for affordable housing. He wrote an article in February 2010 calling into question the Yolo County District Attorney’s decision to seek a life sentence for a repeat offender whose last crime involved “stealing \$3.99 worth of cheese and a woman’s wallet.” He also wrote an article in June 2010 in opposition to an earlier opinion piece regarding the intent of a recent Davis measure concerning who “retains the final say on how growth is to occur in Davis.”

While discussing with staff the content of his application materials, Applicant stated that he had remarried in July 2010. Staff therefore advised Applicant to submit an amendment to his supplemental application disclosing this new family relationship. Applicant submitted the amendment that same day.

Bureau staff contacted Pam Nieberg, the author of one of Applicant's letters of recommendation, to confirm the information provided in the letter and receive any additional information that may be relevant. Ms. Nieberg confirmed that she wrote the letter. She added that she witnessed Applicant working in his capacity as a council member, and joined him to support local candidates in campaigns for the Davis City Council and the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Nieberg indicated that Applicant operates as a consensus builder. When faced with an opposing viewpoint, Applicant tends not to hastily argue the matter and force his views on the other person, but instead works toward reaching agreement on a solution. Ms. Nieberg stated that Applicant considers all viewpoints when solving problems, as he tries to "get people to agree logically." Ms. Nieberg also stated that Applicant is known for working well with others. She said she is always amazed by how well Applicant "plays with others." She indicated that Applicant is not one to be intimidated by complex technical data, or others who may be more familiar with it. She stated that Applicant is very smart, but if he is not an expert on a particular subject, he will admit that fact, and do the requisite research to acquire an adequate understanding of the subject.

Recommendation: None.

Name and title of person submitting response: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations

Report Date: September 17, 2010