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MISSION *NOT* ACCOMPLISHED

Supervisors' refusal to exercise oversight leaves the Sheriff unaccountable

By Julius (Jay) Wachtel. Upstaging our spineless Board of Supervisors, which decided 3-2 against forcing him to take as much as a temporary powder, Orange County Sheriff-under-Federal-indictment Mike Carona placed himself on sixty-day hiatus, leaving Undersheriff Jo Ann Galisky in charge of the anxious and demoralized agency.

What's wrong with this picture? Plenty. With the Sheriff in limbo and two former top aides sucking wind (Assistant Sheriff George Jaramillo in the slammer; Assistant Sheriff Don Haidl, who recently pled guilty to Federal corruption charges, packing his lunch) it's not enough to pass the baton to the most senior officer *not* facing prosecution and hope that the strong odor in the executive suites simply goes away. We desperately need a thorough, no-holds-barred investigation of the department's entire command staff; after all, it was Carona who promoted them: where do you think their loyalties lie?

That, as Supervisor John Moorlach and Board Chair Chris Norby (the only good guys in this picture) probably realize, is not something that can happen from within. In any competent organization the penthouse would have already been sealed and its occupants placed on paid leave while knowledgeable outsiders come in to interview underlings, review records and get a handle on exactly what's been going on during the last few years. How was the agency run? How were its leaders selected? Are there other instances of misconduct? Meanwhile the department can be run by a competent retired Chief without a stake in the outcome (no offense, Paul Walters, but everyone knows you want to be Sheriff.)

Where's the beef, you ask? How about the California Constitution? [Article 5, section 13](#), implemented in [Government Code section 12560](#), places Sheriffs under the "direct supervision" of the Attorney General. Not that our sorry board would dream of exercising it, but [Government Code section 25303](#) also gives county supervisors authority over all county officials, sheriffs included, and even requires that they assure these officers "faithfully perform their duties."

Now that the Federal attorney general has had his say, we need California's to exercise his Constitutional authority and send a crew of Cal DOJ agents post-haste to turn off the shredders, lock the cabinets and shut the doors and windows before all potential evidence of mismanagement or criminal activity disappears.

Earth to Jerry Brown...come in, please. We're waiting!