



## **James C. Hankla**

Date in office: Feb. 14, 1985 - Feb. 27, 1987

James C. Hankla was appointed on February 14, 1985 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to become chief administrative officer. As CAO, he oversaw an annual budget of more than \$6 billion and a workforce of more than 74,000 employees for the most populous county in the United States.

Hankla began his career of public service in 1957 with the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation while attending college. Upon graduation from California State University, Long Beach, he began a 20-year career with the City of Long Beach as a budget analyst and later as legislative analyst.

In 1974 Hankla was appointed executive assistant to the city manager and in 1976 as director of community development and executive director of the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency. In that latter capacity he was responsible for the successful planning and implementation of the city's economic development strategy which served as the blueprint for the commercial and industrial revitalization of Long Beach. Hankla's work in restructuring the financing program for the downtown redevelopment project in the wake of Proposition 13 earned the city the coveted Winston Crouch Award from the American Society for Public Administration.

Leaving Long Beach in 1980, Hankla entered the private sector as executive director of the Virginia Peninsula Economic Development Corporation and was involved in industrial and commercial real estate marketing and financing for the municipalities of Hampton, Newport News, James City County, York County and Williamsburg. Hankla successfully organized and staffed the VPEDC, whose projects included the first Mercedes Benz production facility in North America and the \$100 million financing for the Dominion and Massey Coal Terminals.

In January of 1982, Hankla returned to California as general manager for Campeau Corporation's Northern California Housing Division in San Francisco, where he managed four real estate projects and handled public agency negotiations for the firm.

On June 28, 1982, Hankla was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the first executive director of the Community Development Commission, which combined the county's Redevelopment Agency, Housing Authority, Community Development Block Grant Management, Housing Development and Economic Development activities. In that role, Hankla completely organized the agency from the ground up, reduced combined overhead costs by \$2.5 million annually, devised and implemented new fiscal and personnel systems, reversed a \$300,000 cash deficit position in the Housing Authority to a positive reserve of approximately \$1.5 million, issued more than \$330 million in tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds to provide financing for approximately 5,000 new housing units and completed construction of 500 units of new public housing.

In 1985, Hankla was appointed CAO for Los Angeles County and served for two years. In 1987

he returned to Long Beach as its city manager, where he established a long record of distinguished achievement for 11 years before his retirement.

Hankla served as president of the National Council for Urban Economic Development in Washington, D.C. He was a guest lecturer at many colleges and universities, including Harvard, University of Southern California, California State University, Long Beach, and University of California, Davis.

Hankla was born on September 30, 1939 in Louisville, Kentucky. He received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Los Angeles. He and his wife have two sons.