

## *Handout: Television Script*

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### **Live/Package Script**

*June 5, 2007*

*CBS 2 Chicago*

*Story reported by Kristyn Hartman*

**(Anchor)** Later today the Cook County Board is expected to take a no-confidence vote against Board President Todd Stroger. The opposition is championed by Commissioner Tony Peraica. CBS 2 News' Kristyn Hartman is live at the Cook County building with more on this dispute. Good morning Kristyn.

**(Live Shot/Reporter)** Good Morning Roseanne. We have yet to hear how Tony Peraica's resolution will fair. It is after all the 85<sup>th</sup> item on the agenda this morning, but we did hear from a few of the major players in this round of County Board theatre.

**Package begins:**

**(SOT/County Commissioner Tony Peraica)** I think this is the time to say enough is enough.

**(Reporter track)** County Commissioner Tony Peraica says he is tired of waiting for the man who defeated him in the board president's race to make good on his campaign promises. Six months into the administration he is pushing this resolution. It asks other commissioners for a vote of no confidence against Commissioner Todd Stroger.

**(SOT/County Board Commissioner Tony Peraica)** And I believe that he has failed miserably because he ran on a certain platform that advocated progressive government reform. And over the last six months he has done everything the opposite. There has been a padding of the payroll, hiring of unnecessary people, firing of necessary frontline workers.

**(Reporter track)** Some reasons for his resolution, which he took to voters.

**(Natural sound of automated phone call)** Call Commissioner Quigley today and tell him to voice no confidence in Todd Stroger next Tuesday.

**(Reporter track)** And, which he says is primarily symbolic. But, he believes that if it passes, it will be an expression of the will of the board.

**(SOT/Reporter)** How many commissioners support you?

**(Peraica)** Oh we will find out.

**(Reporter track):** We learned Commissioner Larry Suffredin doesn't.

(SOT/Investigator/Larry Suffredin) So this sideshow, I think, will do nothing to improve the quality of life. So I'm opposed to it. Are there problems with the way President Stroger is running things? Absolutely. He has to change his style if he wants to survive and have any chance of a second term. But there is no procedure in Illinois law for us to remove him. So I can't remove him. He is there for three and half years. My goal is to make sure that he doesn't do any more harm.

(SOT/Todd Stroger): I stand ready and willing as always to look beyond partisan political concerns to work with my colleagues to improve county government.

(Reporter/Live ) That was Todd Stroger a short time ago from the meeting, during which he proceeded to run through his administration's accomplishments. Now the vote on the resolution is slated for later. We are on it. For now, live from the Loop. Kristyn Hartman with CBS 2 News.

### **Additional information for the Web version:**

The no confidence vote will take place on Tuesday, June 5. County Commissioner Tony Peraica lost to Stroger in the November election. In taking issue with Stroger's handling of the county budget, Peraica has accused Stroger of cutting vital jobs in the county medical system and other departments.

To advance his no confidence motion, Peraica is getting constituents involved. He has employed a tactic usually reserved for political campaigns -- automated phone calls to voters. The "robo-calls" have gone out to voters represented by Democrats Mike Quigley (D-10th), Forrest Claypool (D-12th) and Larry Suffredin (D-13th). None of these commissioners, however, plan to support the resolution.

"It might make the public feel good, but it really won't have any force of law," Quigley said.

"This makes no sense to me; it's grandstanding," added Suffredin.

Peraica also has produced a YouTube video that blasts Stroger for employing friends and family on the county payroll. Peraica specifically criticizes the hiring of two people: county chief financial officer Donna Dunning, Stroger's cousin, and Sean Howard, Stroger's campaign manager, who was arrested last year on allegations that he harassed a woman. The charges against Howard were later dropped. Last month he was hired as public affairs director for the county health system.

Critics contend the campaign-like tactics make Peraica look like a sore loser. A Stroger spokesperson dismissed the no-confidence vote as a sideshow.

"It's a stunt designed to advance political concerns," said Stroger spokesperson Ibis Antongiorgi.