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Shelter director asked to resign

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D'Angelo said, and the vote to ask for her resignation came as a surprise to several board members.

Ms. Treanor, who was unable to attend the Wednesday night meeting, said she considered the omission of the item from the agenda "serious." Had she known the board was going to consider firing the executive director, Ms. Treanor said she would have made special arrangements to attend.

Some of the personal discord between Ms. Ramos and the board is reportedly generated by philosophical differences about how to help battered women recover from their trauma.

The board, which has become a more conservative body during the past year with the addition of several members, advocates requiring the

women to seek psychological counseling, for example. The board would also like to see a more organized, efficient, daily management of the houses.

During a reorganization attempt last year, the board stripped Ms. Ramos of many of her responsibilities and transferred them to Ms. King, who is said to have a more traditional administrative style.

In May, the freeholders criticized board members for their action and advised restoring Ms. Ramos's decision-making powers.

When he learned of the board's action yesterday, Freeholder-Director John Curran, who has been Ms. Ramos's vigorous ally, issued a statement through his aide.

Ms. Ramos's performance as director has been "outstanding," he said, and she is still needed in the cause to assist battered women in

their plights."

Thomas J. McKenna, director of the county's Department of Human Services Planning Council, which funds the shelters, also gave Ms. Ramos high praise.

"Without Sandy, SOS would not exist. She's a real pioneer in that field," McKenna said. "I don't know of anyone more dedicated to battered women."

He noted, however, that in its periodic evaluation of the project, the council recommended that the shelter's board resolve the administrative tangle created by having competing directors.

"Sandy's a genius. She'll take a cause, take it to heart, and run till the last minute," McKenna said. "Dolores is more of an administrator type. It's up to the board to say what they need at this time in their growth."