



**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS**  
**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Monday September 11, 2006  
10:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL  
200 N. Spring St.  
Room 1060  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Commissioners:      Tariq Khero, President  
                             Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President  
                             Marie Atake  
                             Glenn Brown  
                             Deborah A. Knaan

**COMMISSION MEETING**

Commission President Khero called the Commission meeting to order at 10:07 A.M. Present were Commissioners Atake and Knaan. Commissioner Riordan joined the meeting at 11:35 A. M. Commissioner Brown was absent.

**1.      REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS**

The General Manager drafted a report for the month of August that he would distribute to the Commissioners and make available on the Department's website.

- Dog and cat statistics for '06 Calendar: Dog and cat adoptions are up 6%; dog and cats placed in foster homes are up 130%; dogs and cats euthanized is down 6%.
- The General Manager has been working with the Controller's Office to schedule a Department audit of service/delivery systems, including the collection and reporting of data.
- A group of volunteers has recently started a 501c(3) fund raising organization called SALA to help fund the life saving programs of the Department. SALA is also working diligently to make the October 6 Grand Homecoming event at the North Central Animal Care Center a great success.
- The Department sponsored SB 1806 which passed with a vote of 64 to 7 on August 14. The bill provides that leaving or confining an animal in any unattended motor vehicle under conditions that endanger the health or well-being of an animal due circumstances that could reasonably lead to cause suffering, disability, or death to the animal is a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment in a county jail, or both. The bill also enables animal control officers to rescue animals from such situations.
- A new feature of the monthly report to the Commission is a shelter-by-shelter explanation of the different programs that are being developed by each shelter.
- The Call Center now dispatches calls from the public to the animal control officers in the field.
- Mr. Richard Deppisch, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator I, reported on the NIMS training and the role the Commissioners would have in a City emergency.

## Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Two weeks ago the General Manager was in Brooklyn defending himself in a racial discrimination lawsuit against a former employee, from when he worked in New York. Pleased that the Department was moving towards getting an audit by the Controller's Office.

Phyllis Daugherty: SB 1806 reduces what the Department used to prosecute as a felony to a misdemeanor with a \$500 fine. This bill excludes the transportation of livestock.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS INCLUDING MATTERS FOR BOARD ACTION

### A. Board Report: Sam Simon and Amanda Pet Foundation Contracts (Jeff Brill)

Mr. Jeff Brill, Sr. Management Analyst II reported the Department was working with the Mayor's Office to move the contracts along to Public Safety without being heard, and scheduling it for the Budget and Finance Committee. Currently the report is being written by the City Attorney's Office to formalize all of the Department's findings. He informed the Board that the Department established a place mark for the contracts on September 18 and September 25, and were also working to establish a place mark for full Council that same week of September 25. Commissioner Knaan mentioned a need for the Sam Simon Foundation to offer Saturday services strictly for the public. Mr. Brill said that they would be able to speak with the Sam Simon Foundation and place that request into the contract. Mr. Brill also clarified that the Sam Simon Foundation would be providing spay/neuter services inclusive for all 6 of the Department's animal care centers, and that the specific wording would be written back into the contract. Ms. Battina Schendel, Deputy City Attorney IV, commented on the importance of the contract being clear to all parties involved. She added that the language should be changed as necessary to eliminate any ambiguity or vagueness to the language, and recommended that the Department be as specific as it can in relation to the situation.

## Public Comments

Daniel Guss: Concerned with any future involvement with the Sam Simon Foundation. The Department has suffered enough being involved with the Sam Simon Foundation.

Teri Austin: Clarified that she was not criticizing Mr. Brill's efforts, but did have a desire to move on with the contracts. Mentioned that the procedures for rabbits were much more difficult to perform. Offered the services of the Amanda Foundation to perform sterilizations on the rabbits.

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Commission Recommendations For New Agenda Items

- Commissioner Knaan requested to see a draft on the spay/neuter ordinance by the commission meeting scheduled for October 23, 2006.

(The General Manager responded that the Department is working with group of citizens on a statewide initiative on spay/neuter. They have already met with possible sponsors for the bill, as well as the Governor's Office. He mentioned that he would meet with Mr. Dov Lesel and Phyllis Daugherty's team and attempt to coordinate efforts.)

#### Public Comments

Daniel Guss: With the opening of the new shelters, the Department will have a greater capacity for animals. However, there are a shockingly low number of veterinarians to tend to the animals.

Teri Austin: Wanted the issue of spay/neuter to be placed as an agenda item for the next Commission meeting. The Department has just lost ABC, the largest provider of low-cost spay/neuter services and the largest recipient of the City's voucher money. The Department needs to look carefully at the money available to provide such services.

Phyllis Daugherty: There are many issues that need to be addressed when it comes down to spay/neuter services in the City. Need to use the components that are already being used and not contradict them. There is going to be a final meeting with Mr. Lesel to go over the legalities of the ordinance.

#### 4. COMMISSION BUSINESS

##### A. Approval of the Minutes for August 28, 2006

Commissioner Knaan requested that the tentative dates be added to the Commission Recommendations For New Agenda Items. The Commissioners decided to table the approval of the minutes for August 28, 2006 to the next Commission meeting on September 25, 2006.

**Action Item: Approval of the Minutes for August 28, 2006 to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on 09/25/06.**

##### B. Meetings/Events Attended

Commissioner Atake volunteered at dog adoption events on September 2 and 9. Commissioners Khero and Knaan had nothing to report.

#### 5. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

##### A. Board Report: Approval of Contract for Erica Meadows (Jeff Brill)

Mr. Brill reported that the Department was working to improve and restructure the Volunteer Program. With the opening of the new shelters and the increase in spay/neuter services, it is important that the Department assesses their volunteer program and identifies what has worked and what has failed. To address this issue, the Department has sought the services of Ms. Erica Meadows in a consulting capacity to make recommendations on how to make the Volunteer Program more effective in helping meet the needs of the community. Commissioners Atake and Knaan expressed their reservations in contracting Ms. Meadow's for her consulting services. Ms. Schendel advised the Board to schedule a closed meeting to further discuss the Erica Meadows contract. Commissioner Khero suggested that the meeting be scheduled tentatively for Friday afternoon, September 18, 2006.

#### Public Comments

Daniel Guss: It's not just \$35,000. The contract has a cap on it for hours, so it has an effective salary of

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\$104,000. Does Ms. Meadows have a consulting background that merits such a salary? Does Ms. Meadows have experience in consulting to government entities?

Teri Austin: Concerned because she has never heard of Ms. Meadows. Recommended Ms. Joyce Forrest who has worked with the Volunteer Program for many years to serve as a consultant.

## **6. REGULAR AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **A. Discussion: Transfer of Animals Between Shelters (Ed Boks)**

Commissioner Knaan requested to table the discussion on the Transfer of Animals Between Shelters to the next Commission meeting on September 25, 2006, and to have Lt. Michelle Roache in attendance to report on how the program is being implemented. The General Manager clarified that the transfer program is functioning on a limited basis, as the shelters are typically full. In the month of August, three animals were transferred from West Los Angeles, Two animals from West Valley, twelve animals from East Valley, ten animals from North Central, and seven animals from the Harbor. In that same month of August, West Los Angeles received twenty-one animals, West Valley received two animals, East Valley received ten animals, and South Los Angeles received one animal.

#### **Public Comments**

Phyllis Daugherty: The situation with disease factors at the shelter is deplorable. Keeping the high number in the kennels should be animal cruelty. Some of the animals have been through a lot and should be euthanized, especially at the owner's request. Supports the General Manager and the staff.

Daniel Guss: In regards to transferring animals, the Department needs to have a plan in identifying which animals are in the most need of being transferred to the new shelters. Need to give those dogs that are the most at risk the best chance to be transferred, especially from North Central and South Los Angeles.

**Action Item: Discussion on the Transfer of Animals Between Shelters to return as an agenda item for the Commission Meeting on 09/25/06.**

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Phyllis Daugherty: 70-80% of the shelters in the State do not offer spay/neuter services. Mandating a statewide spay/neuter ordinance would prevent many animals from being adopted out. Informed the Board that Dr. Vasquez is not treating any animals for the time being, despite offering to help at the South Los Angeles Center. Said that her organization had a DVD on rabbit spay/neuter available for distribution. Mentioned that Craigslist would no longer be allowing animals-for-sale bulletins to be posted on its website. Also mentioned that the County won the lawsuit to go in and review the conditions of one of the largest No-Kill facilities in the County that houses animals.

Jeffrey De La Rosa: Commented on his case with the Department involving his dog "Stu." Visited Stu last week and said that he found him in disastrous conditions. A veterinarian should check dogs kept that long on a weekly basis. Wrote some suggestions on how to improve the process for the Commissioners to consider.

Daniel Guss: Claimed that he was going to show Mr. De La Rosa how to file an ethics complaint against the Department. Mentioned that there was an article in the Los Angeles Times on Department's recent Commissioner Elections, in which Mr. Jim Bickhart advised against Commissioner Riordan accepting the position of Commission President.

Teri Austin: Pleased with the recent improvements with the Department's website. Commented that on the increase of distemper during the months of February and March, with the most affected area being the South Los Angeles shelter. Need to focus getting on getting short-dated vaccines for that shelter. Mentioned that the Amanda Foundation has expanded its services to six days per week.

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board of Animal Services Commissioners met in closed session at 11:30 A.M., pursuant to Section 54957(b)(1) of the California Government Code to discuss the employment of Veterinarians for vacant positions in Operations.

Commissioner Khero called the Commission Meeting back to order at 12:15 P.M.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Riordan motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knaan and passed on a vote of 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.