MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING*
SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2004
10:30 AM

PIERCE COLLEGE CAMPUS CENTER
ADDRESS: 6201 Winnetka Avenue
Woodland Hills, CA 91371
Web Address: http://www.piercecollege.edu

* Please note the location & site change for this Special Saturday Morning Commission Meeting

Commissioners: Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
              Erika Brunson
              Tariq Khero
              Ken Metz
              Alex Rubalcava

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING, 10:30 A.M.

Commissioner Riordan called the meeting to order and thanked Pierce College for allowing the Commission to hold their meeting.

Councilmember Zine opened the meeting by thanking the Commission for having a meeting on a Saturday and allowing residents to have their concerns heard on Animal Services issues, especially the coyotes.

Members present were Commissioners Khero, Metz, Riordan, and Rubalcava. Commissioner Brunson was absent.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

The General Manager Sharon Morris reported as follows:

A. Section 53.50 Complaints: Provided the Commission with statistics regarding complaints of too many animals on a property. The report is broken down by shelter.
B. Request For Proposal (RFP): RFP to operate the mobile spay and neuter program has been released.
C. 4th of July: Due the 4th of July holiday the shelters will be closed Sunday and Monday. The shelter will still be open for redemptions and turn ins. Provided a reminder of fireworks and the negative effects on pets and indicated that people would be able to look for lost animals on the 4th and 5th of July.
2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of April 26, 2004

Commissioner Metz made a motion to accept the minutes of April 26, 2004. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of May 10, 2004

Commissioner Rubalcava requested the following changes to the minutes: Item 1H, a sentence trails off, IK, Councilman Labonge's name is spelled incorrectly and under public comment, the last person to speak, his name is spelled, Gryczman. Commissioner Metz, made a motion to accept the minutes, with the exception of the correction. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Meetings/Events Attended

Nothing to Report

D. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Rubalcava requested the nominations for Board President and Vice-president to be held on July 12, 2004 and the elections to be schedule for July 26, 2004.

3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Memo: FY 2004-05 Adopted Budget Update

Assistant General Manager Regina Adams presented and explained the Departments adopted budget which goes in to effect July 1, 2004. The City Council authorized the Department to add back to the budget the Administrative Hearing Program for barking dogs and dangerous animals. No funding will be provided until the mid-year adjustment.

Ms. Adams indicated that the Department will still continue to respond to wildlife calls although no funding is provided.

B. Update: Proposition F Sheltering Facilities

Ms. Gordon, Senior Management Analyst, provided an explanation of Proposition F and what the Department is planning for the Proposition F funds and the construction of the five new shelters.

C. Memo: Animal Auction Policy

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com
Ms. Morris indicated the Department is going to revisit the Auction Policy. Estimated that the Department will probably return on the July 26, 2004 meeting with further details.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty, Animal Issues Movement: Waived her right to speak

D. Coyote/Wildlife Update

Lt. Bowers provided an explanation of his responsibilities and introduced his staff. Lt. Bowers provided tips on dealing with coyotes. The Department recently produced a coyote video that is currently running on Channel 35 and is working on a second PSA on general wildlife in the City. There are also a series of instructional pamphlets available for residents on raccoon, deer, and coyotes. Department works closely with wildlife rehabbers.

The following information was provided for the time period of June of 2002 to present:

There have been no bear sightings. There have been 60 mountain lion sightings, 79 bobcat sightings, 1,100 coyote sightings or reports of sightings in the Metro Area and 955 for the Valley Area, 43 verified injuries to pets by a coyote in the Metro Area, and 58 the Valley Area, 116 verified deaths by coyote to pet in the Metro Area and 200 in the Valley Area, 294 reports of bold or aggressive behavior towards humans in the metro area and 252 in the valley area. 4 reports of bites on humans by coyotes.

Public Comment

Frank Holiday: Discussed his encounters with coyotes. Believes coyotes need to be moved out of the area, they are using cats and dogs for food.

Phyllis Daughtery, Animal Issue Movement: The City’s trapping policy does not allow residents to trap nuisance, pregnant or heat-in cats to be taken to the shelter where they will be safe, instead they become Coyote food. The policy needs to be changed. There should be legislation for developers to provide money to Animal Services to deal with the problems that result from the development.

VJ: A person needs to be responsible for their pet’s life. Coyotes should not be killed; people need to learn to live with them.

Gail Cain: Her area is plagued with coyotes. Children and adults are being stalked. Animal Control needs to be given the power to deal with the Coyotes.

Jimmy Centerrino: Does not feel safe in his backyard and doesn’t want to ride his bike with

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Sterling Rashooten: Read a poem regarding coyotes.

James Centerrino: No one wants to kill the animals. Wants both sides to work on having a safe neighborhood.

Dugan Savoy: Seen a dramatic increase in the number of coyotes and pets being killed. When the numbers of coyotes grows where they can invade your yard then there is a problem.

Eric Sanjuto: Alerted everyone to the July 13, 2004 reporting to the Arts Committee on the Wildlife and restoring the wildlife positions. Encourage the Commission to work with the Department to work on a more comprehensive coyote policy.

Coach Martin: His students run in the street, residents run in the street and everyone is fearful of the coyotes. Something has to be done.

Fletcher Anderson: Coyote problem has become worst in the last couple of years. The City should protect their citizens. Residents are not protected.

David Perry: Discussed incidents where animals were attacked. Believes children will be attacked next.

Pamlyn Ferdin: More children are killed and injured in one month in Los Angeles from riding bikes, playing sports, running in front of cars, than 100 years of people living the foothills and coexisting with coyotes.

Pat Whinning: Her puppy was killed last year by a coyote. Veterinarians in the areas should be alerting their customers to the problem.

John Sentzle: Thanked everyone for being there. Kids today have fear with walking in their own neighborhoods. Something has to be done.

Dr. Rosemary Wright, Sierra Club: Critical that the wildlife officers do not get eliminated.

Patrick Kennedy: Kelly Lynn Keene, was killed 23 years ago by a coyote. Wildlife officer are very important to controlling the coyote problem. Discussed incidences where dogs have been killed by coyotes.

Joe Hyko: Lost animals to coyote. Need to create a devise that people can carry to put the fear back in the coyote.

Micheal Bell: Request more evening meetings. Co-existing is important. There currently is a roller devise that goes on top of a fence that will keep coyotes out. Fence can be found at www.coyoteroller.com

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John Alfred: Live in West Hills for 21 years, previous to the last two years, we had not seen any coyotes in the area due to proper Animal Regulation. Something needs to be done about the problem.

George Grayson: Supports keeping the wildlife program.

Collin Byarch: Coyotes are a major problem. There is a solution, not killing them but have a peaceful solution where we can coexist.

Porter Thomanson: The City has a problem that needs to be dealt with. Watch your own families.

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

No Action Items for Board Consideration.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (The Board will hear comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction.)

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.