Commissioner Riordan called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Members present were Commissioners E. Brunson T. Khero, K. Riordan, and A. Rubalcava. Commissioner K. Metz was absent.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

General Manager, Sharon Morris, reported as follows:

A. General Manager Sharon Morris (General Manager) welcomed new Commissioner Erika Brunson to the Commission.

B. Councilperson Zine sent a letter thanking the Commission for holding their meeting in the West Valley on June 26, 2004. He was very pleased by the turnout and the response of the Commission and Department. Commissioner Riordan asked if a request for a “Task Force” meeting with the community should be formal or less formal? The General Manager indicated the process could be less formal and the Department would work with Councilperson Zine’s office to put it together.

C. The Department has received inquiries regarding dogs on the Venice Boardwalk. Between Memorial and Labor Day, dogs are not allowed on the Venice Boardwalk per City Ordinance L.A.M.C. Section §63.44 (b)(2)(d)(7). L.A.P.D. is the primary enforcement authority for this section of the L.A.M.C. Commissioner Rubalcava questioned whether this included dogs on leashes. The General Manager replied that it included all dogs.

D. The Participant Shelter Task Force has had two meetings and is moving along. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2004. An update will be presented at one of the August Commission meetings.
E. The Low Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinics, held in conjunction with the Southern California Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA) has increased the cost of a rabies vaccination by $1.00 from a previous cost of $5.00 to a current cost of $6.00.

F. The Departments Attorney, Frank Orozco has been reassigned and replaced by Dov LaSalle.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Meetings / Events Attended. Commissioner Rubalcava attended the Best Friend’s Cat Nippers spay and neuter event. Seventy-five persons attended the event and 92 cats were altered.

B. Consideration of Future Agenda Items. The Commission Calendar was approved as submitted.

3. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Closed Session. The Commission went to closed session at 9:17 A.M. pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(a) to confer with its legal counsel relative to the case entitled Paula Parisi v. City of Los Angeles, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BS 088937. The Closed Session adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

B. Review Of Commission Decision in the Hearing in the aforementioned case. City Attorney, Frank Orozco, reminded the Commission of the Order of the Superior Court to set forth a new decision and stating the reason for the new decision. Mr. Orozco explained the procedure that should be followed in regards to this issue. A discussion ensued and the merits of the case, the reason for the original decision and the rationale behind it were discussed. Commissioner Brunson made a motion to continue the discussion until the next Commission meeting to enable new Commissioners to review the case. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion. The item was continued to the July 26, 2004 meeting by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Public Comment:

Diane Parrish – Ms. Parrish took issue of the City Attorney’s interpretation of the Court Order.

C. West Nile Virus Update. Dr. Casandria Smith presented an update report on West Nile Virus (virus). The virus is currently throughout Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. A list of postal zip codes where the virus has been found was distributed. Dr. Smith reported that no cases of equine virus were found in Los Angeles County. However, seven cases of equine virus were found in Riverside County and one in San Bernardino County. In addition, there have been 17 cases of the virus in the three county areas. There is no vaccine available for the virus in humans. Additional information could be obtained from
D. Nominations for Board President & Vice President of the Board of Animal Services Commissioners. The General Manager explained the duties of the Board President and Vice President of the Commission and indicated the term is for one year. The City Attorney explained that the Los Angeles City Charter calls for election of officers to be held by the end of July. Commissioner Brunson nominated Commissioner Kathleen Riordan for President and Commissioner Rubalcava for Vice-President. Commissioner Rubalcava nominated Commissioner Tariq Khero for President and Commissioner Riordan for vice-president.

Public Comment:

Daniel Guss, Stand Foundation - Mr. Guss indicated he was going to the Public Safety meeting to have Commissioner Metz taken off the Commission. Mr. Guss requested the nominations be postponed until all the commissioners had at least three months experience.

GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

E. Board Report: Revisiting the Doggie Daycare Decision. Mr. Robert Janovici of the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and Mr. Peter Kim Zoning Engineer of the Department of Building and Safety presented a chart that showed which zones doggie daycare facilities would be permitted to operate. A discussion between the Commission, the Planning Department and Building and Safety took place regarding which zones allowed doggie daycare facilities to operate. Mr. Janovici explained that where the code did not indicate whether a business was allowed to operate, the Use List was used as a second tier document to approve a permit. Commissioner Rubalcava asked if current businesses would be grandfathered in to the regulations. Mr. Kim indicated that so long as the business was properly permitted, it would gain a grandfather status. The General Manager reported that no additional regulations would be required and the current regulations are adequate. Commissioner Rubalcava requested that a report be prepared that the Commission could vote upon regarding the operating hours of a doggy daycare. Commissioner Rubalcava motioned that the report be received and filed. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a 4-0 vote of the Commission.

Public Comment:

Michelle Doram, The Dog House – Ms. Doram voiced her concerns that the report did not set forth regulations regarding safety at Dog Day Care Facilities.

Michael Doram, The Dog House – Mr. Doram voiced his concerns that the facilities were allowed in C-2 and not C-1 planning zones.

Michelle Rivera, Chateau Marmutt – Ms. Rivera commented on the difficulty associated with closing a business at 6:00 P.M in the City of Los Angeles when most people to not get off work by 5:00 p.m.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com
F. Board Report: Acceptance of Donations of $25,000 by the General Manager. The General Manager explained how she is limited in accepting donation for Department no higher than $5,000. Anything over this amount cannot be accepted without going to the Mayor and City Council for acceptance. Oftentimes donations of perishable donations, with a value of more than $5,000 become close to expiring while waiting for Council approval. Commissioner Brunson questioned why general donations could not be placed in the Animal Sterilization Fund. The General Manager explained that donations are placed in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund if people do not specify where they want the donation to be used. Commissioner Rubalcava motion to accept the recommendation and Commissioner Khero seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Scott Sorrentino, Rescue Humane Alliance of Los Angeles - Welcomed Commissioner Brunson. Indicated the Alliance has 40 members. Thanked the Department for the Participant Shelter Task Force. Inquired about the new Volunteer Coordinator and the training of new volunteers. Requested a specific date to discuss mobile pet adoptions.

Phyllis Daugherty, Animals Issue Movement - Reported on the approval of a grant to produce a video dealing with early spay and neuter in numerous foreign languages. Reported that LAPD did not respond to animal fighting unless gambling was involved. The Governor was going to extend SB 1785 for another year.

Daniel Guss, Stand Foundation - Indicated he had a great experience at the Sam Simon Van. Stated that Warren Extine referred to the Department as terrorist. Passed a photo of a kennel he was going to show to Public Safety that had a broken door.

Jeff Fleiss, United Animal Rescue and Doggie - Mr. Fleiss continues to wants to air Commission Meeting on Channel 35. Rescued several dogs this morning. He has a list of 50 animal grants that the Department could obtain. The web site needs updating. Read a portion of paragraph from a newspaper (Unknown publisher) of June 25, 2004. Mr Fleiss read that “Hahn indicated the City would stop killing animals by 2008. But Los Angeles continues to put to death cats, dogs and other animals that are not adopted. The City handles about 60,000 animals per year and kills about 34,000”.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Riordon adjourned the meeting at 11:03 P.M.