Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Board Secretary, Rita Moreno, Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS). Roll call. Commissioners present were Zaft, Yañez, Brent and Gross. Commissioner Wolfson was absent. Also present: Chief Management Analyst (CMA) Dana Brown and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

Commissioner Zaft opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:**
   - **Daniel Guss:** Discussed blog to contribute issues to the Mayor, ethics concerns with Commissioner Yañez, and plan to provide tutorials on avoiding spay/neuter and licensing laws.
   - **Paul Darrigo:** Played recording of GM Barnette’s report to the Commission regarding protests and stated protests will continue until a meeting with the Mayor is held; distributed pictures of dogs hit on 110 and 405 freeways.
   - **David Weiner:** Stated that bunnies can be slaughtered and discussed need for laws to treat bunnies humanely.
   - **Leyla Hadzimuratovic:** Stated that meetings had occurred and that there had been some improvement as a result of the Califa Street incident; working with New Hope program and acknowledged Tiffany at North Central.

2. **COMMISSION BUSINESS**

   A. Board Recognition of LAASEE Award Recipients
      a. Dr. Rolando Vasquez (Posthumous), Veterinarian, North Figueroa Animal Hospital (tabled to July 28, 2015)

   B. Approval of Minutes for May 26, 2015.

   C. Approval of Minutes for June 9, 2015.

   D. Approval of Minutes for June 23, 2015.

      **Commissioner Zaft** requested that the minutes for all three meetings be approved as a whole.

      Secretary Moreno noted correction to Item I.1. from “North Valley” Animal Care and Control to “East Valley” Animal Care and Control.
Commissioner Gross requested that a list of all Commissioner requests be listed at the end of the minutes. Secretary Moreno responded that a running list will be provided.

Commissioner Brent moved to approve the minutes of May 26, 2015, June 9, 2015 and June 23, 2015 (as corrected) and Commissioner Gross seconded. The motion passed 4 – 0.

Public Comment
None

3. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

CMA Brown stated that GM Barnette was attending the National Leadership Forum and presenting at the Best Friends National Conference, and shared the following:

- All six shelters were at capacity prior to the 4th of July weekend; staff handled the extra work with 721 incoming as compared to 742 in 2014.
- Safety surveillance cameras are being installed at the Harbor shelter and next is West L.A.
- NBC Chanel 4 will be hosting an adoption event on August 15 called “Clear the Shelters Day” and have invited adoption agencies to participate and reduce their adoption fee to $20; ASPCA has offered a grant of $10,000 to subsidize the adoption fees for the day, and the department has applied.
- The department met with rabbit rescue groups on July 8 to discuss rabbit keeping and the number of rabbits a household may keep; groups don’t want to set pet limits but asked that vouchers be made available for rabbit spay/neuter (rabbits are included in the trust fund document).
- Pet Mate donated 20 sacks of cat litter and GSD is helping deliver it to one of the shelters.
- The department will move back to Figueroa Plaza by the end of October; we have concerns over the amount of space for file storage so we are working on archiving historical data and destroying unnecessary records.
- Job was offered to a Public Relations Specialist, who accepted then later declined; new interviews will be held.
- Working with communities in the Oaks area and Fish and Wildlife on addressing coyote issues through training.
- Motion was introduced by Councilmember Koretz and approved by City Council to provide water away from neighborhoods for coyotes and other wild animals; LAAS and Recreation and Parks will work on this and report back in 30 days.
- North Central Shelter participated with the mobile pet adoption in the Lotus Festival on July 11 and 12 at Echo Park Lake.
- July 18th Leanna’s Wonderland will hold a opening event for their art show, which will benefit the North Central Shelter, LAAS will have adoptable dogs for visiting and information about Department programs and services. The exhibit runs from July 18th to August 23rd.
- July 25th and 26th The Pet Care Foundation will host, “Chi, Pitty, Kitty” a reduced fees weekend for Chihuahua’s and Chihuahua mixes, Pit Bulls and Pit bull mixes, and cats, Pet Care Foundation will pay $50 of the adoption fee.
- August 15th NBCUniversal will be hosting, “Clear the Shelters Day” a fee reduced
adoption event to take place at all 6 LAAS Shelters.

- The Perfect Exposure Art Gallery is hosting an art exhibit dedicated to dogs to celebrate Day of the Dog on August 26th, the gallery will be promoting adoptions for our shelters and making a donation at the end of the exhibit. Entries close June 20th to submit a photo.

Public Comment

**Daniel Guss:** Asked about the GM response/rebuttal on use of low income voucher. **Leyla Hadzimuratovic:** Discussed July 8 meeting with GM Barnette, DFO Seld er and Susan Botta regarding having rabbits as pets and the number per household; prior recommendations have not been considered.

4. COMMISSIONERS’ ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**Commissioner Brent:** Requested a staff report on the following: continuing Feline-ality Program at the Harbor Shelter and expansion to West L.A. Shelter, and stated that Patty Neagely and ASPCA under the impression that the program will continue; use of the old South L.A. Shelter or annex to house personal property and evidence dogs, and Lori Weiss has offered to work with those animals so no additional stress for staff; EIR for feral cats; discussion on issues addressed by protesters.

**Commissioner Yañez:** Requested staff report on voucher increase, and an update on the hiring of the 12 Canvassers and having them distribute vouchers and information on free resources available in the community being canvassed.

**Commissioner Gross:** Discussed the June 27 Sherman Oaks Library Square Block Party and dogs adopted out - thanked DFO Selder, Veronica Perry, Sheri Brewer, Gail Raff, Andrew Brown, Orly Kroh and Melody Miller; shared that due to the East Valley’s plea to the public about the 4th of July, 64 animals were rescued, adopted and/or fostered and recognized the work of staff and volunteers, especially Veronica Perry, and JD Disalvatore, video maker who successfully promoted event; Lotus Festival adopted pets out, and Teri Austin was there with mobile spay neuter; Friends of Moorpark mobile pet adoption in Studio City – staff and volunteers are there every 2rd and 4th Sunday of the month to get South L.A. and East Valley animals adopted; working with LAAS, HCID, City Attorney and Councilmember Koretz to develop approach to encourage landlords to accept tenants with pets as well as on tenant rights for pets; July 2 Koretz’ motion for LAAS and HCID to work together to work with stakeholders to formulate approach.

Public Comment

**Daniel Guss:** Requested item on the agenda re Commissioner Yañez’s disclosure form; discussed hoarding case with 31 animals in the Valley. **Leyla Hadzimuratovic:** Requested item on the agenda to discuss legislative issue of rabbits as food and stated that Officers don’t know how to enforce animal cruelty laws. **Paul Darrigo:** Stated that one of six shelters participated; suggested letter to Veronica Perry; training and leadership needed for programs.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board Report to Request Approval of Recommended Changes to the New Hope Program Policy (Item tabled at June 9, 2015 meeting)

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Commissioner Zaft provided background on the previous report and why this item was tabled. Commissioner Gross asked for clarification whether members referred to members of a particular New Hope partner (Secretary Moreno responded affirmatively); asked if New Hope Coordinators were going to be hired as ACTs are hired and whether there should be a timeline. Commissioner Brent clarified that ACTs function with dual roles as New Hope Coordinators; suggested that the GM report include a status on hiring and open and filled positions. Commissioner Zaft agreed that there should be a regular updated on vacant positions; asked why the department is proposing to limit the number of people who can pull animals for new applicants and not limit the same for the current members. Commissioner Brent responded that there are geographical challenges and people are needed throughout the city; retroactive application might cause hardship. Commissioner Yañez stated that a number is needed for greater control. ACA Lesel recommended a report be requested on retroactively limiting the current members. Commissioner Zaft responded that the department should talk with the current partners to determine what makes sense. Commissioner Brent requested that we find out how many pullers each of the 210 current New Hope partner has. Commissioner Zaft stated that it is important to hear their experience pulling and interaction with staff. Commissioner Brent stated that she has positive experience and acknowledged Maria, but has heard negative experiences from others. ACA Lesel suggested continuing the item so that Commissioner Brent can recuse herself as a New Hope partner.

Public Comment

Leyla Hadzimuratovic: Stated that it helps to have a couple of people geographically – 12 pullers (one plus alternates); stated there is a need for a New Hope liaison (and after hours) and discussions with groups on issues, and reporting from department on outcomes. Paul Darrigo: Stated that the ACT job description does not include working with New Hope partners; customer service training is needed; suggested NH partners be asked how the department is doing. Daniel Guss: Stated that there is unequal treatment of NH Partners – he was suspended for missing one cat update, but Laurel Kinder owes thousands and continues to pull over 900 animals. David Weiner: Acknowledged Tiffany at North Central; mentioned bunny euthanized in June, but organization was not contacted; department reported 0 euthanized in June, but there is information of one or two; organization had 9 placements for rabbits in June, but none reported (website).

Commissioner Zaft made a motion to continue item and request report on department’s recommendation for the number of pullers for all New Hope partners and Commissioner Yañez seconded. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Commissioner Zaft requested that outreach to New Hope partners be conducted for their input.

B. Board Report to Establish Time Limits for the Submission of Appeal Hearing Documentation

Secretary Moreno provided a summary of the written report and asked for any changes to the proposal. Commissioner Zaft stated that any appeal hearing notice sent to the appellant and complaining witness include this new procedure.

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Public Comment

**Paul Darrigo:** Acknowledged Commissioner Brent; asked about the Commission's goals for the department.

**Commissioner Gross** moved to approve the staff report recommendation and **Commissioner Brent** seconded. The motion passed 4 – 0.

6. ADJOURNMENT

**Commissioner Yañez** made a motion to adjourn the meeting and **Commissioner Brent** seconded. Motion carried 4 - 0.

Meeting ended at 11:11 p.m.