



MINUTES

BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES



Monday, July 11, 2005
9:00 a.m.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St.
Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commissioners: Kathleen Riordan, President
Alex Rubalcava, Vice President
Erika Brunson
Tariq Khero
Deborah A. Knaan

COMMISSION MEETING, 9:00 A.M.

Commission Vice President Rubalcava called the Commission meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Present were Commissioners Rubalcava, Khero (Arrived 4 minutes late), Brunson and Knaan. Absent was Commissioner Riordan.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

- A. Guerdon Stuckey was absent at the Meeting. The General Manager's Report was presented by Commission Acting-Secretary Ross Pool:
- B. It was reported that the Administrative Section of Animal Services relocated to 221 North Figueroa, 5th Floor, Los Angeles. CA 90012.
- C. An outline of the Hiring Plan was presented including the hiring of a new Sr.. Management Analyst II to the position of Budget and finance Officer. Interviews for the Management Analyst and clerical positions are scheduled during the next few weeks. One Veterinarian resigned due to the "effect of the strong animal welfare groups has on the staff".
- D. Information on upcoming events was presented to the Commission. It was reported that the Pet Adoption event at Westchester Park was a great event. Commissioner Knaan commented that over 450 animals were adopted.
- E. The Mayor's new Executive Order No. 2005-01, entitled Ethics in Government was presented to the Board for their review.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes For June 27, 2005

Commissioner Knaan requested the minutes be amended to reflect the following information under the Board Report, Trap, Neuter and Return Policy. "Commander Diliberto said that code changes were not a problem. Commissioner Riordan said she disagreed and said she was not referring to code changes, but code exemptions in a T, N, R policy. Bob Ferber then said he disagreed with Commander Diliberto. While it was nice that the Commander does not see a need for this, the law is the law and he, Mr. Ferber, has encountered this far too often to disregard this." Under Regular Agenda Items, Commissioner Knaan, indicated that the General Manager had agreed not to label animals as fractious. Commissioner Knaan also indicated that If the DWP bills were to be used for advertising they should be used for licensing and not

for the T, N, & R program. Commissioner made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Khoro seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, as amended, 4-0

B. Meetings/Events Attended

Commissioners reported no meetings or events attended.

C. Consideration of Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Brunson asked that the request by the City of Beverly Hill for the Department to assume animal care and control be placed on the agenda for an update.

Public Comment:

Terri Auston: Asked to be placed on the agenda to make a presentation on a new spay and neuter program specifically for the Valley.

Phyllis Daugherty: Two issue to be discussed. Another attack on the home of an employee and still we have no security in the shelters. It has been two years since the monies became available. No progress in installing cameras at shelters. Also no public relations or medial releases being sent out.

3. **GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION**

A. None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

B. Update: Six-Month Review of Municipal Code Section §53.15

A motion to continue the Six-Month Review of Municipal Code Section §53.15 was made by Commissioner Brunson and seconded by Commissioner Khoro. The motion passed 4-0.

An alternate agenda item on the update of the Spay and Neuter Task Force was not heard because it was not on the agenda.

C. Update: Spay & Neuter Update for South Los Angeles Shelter

Dr. Casandria Smith, Chief Veterinarian, reported that the Spay and Neuter Facility at the South Los Angeles Shelter has been open since June 1, 2005. During the first 30 days of operation the facility spayed or neutered 176 dogs and cats. This does not include special events that have been held on the weekends. New plans will start bringing animals from other shelters. Additionally, the shelter hours will be changed from Tuesday through Saturday to Monday through Friday to accommodate other activities that would be able to use the facilities on weekend days. Dr. Smith reported that the loss of a veterinarian might affect the staffing of the Spay and Neuter Clinic. The reason the veterinarian was leaving was too much outside pressure from animal rights groups and citizens who question the diagnosis of the animals. Efforts were made to keep the veterinarian from resigning by assigning him to another shelter with less volume. Commissioner Knaan asked about the Spay and Neuter Clinic and if we were doing surgeries for outside animals. The Spay and Neuter Clinic is not performing procedures on any animals from the outside. Commissioner Knaan asked of the possibility to open the clinic to the public. Commissioner Brunson asked why we can't have the clinic open to the public. Dr. Smith indicated that it was not prudent to have shelter and private animals cared for in the clinic due to cross contamination. Dr. Smith indicated

she did not feel this way. Catnippers currently use the facility on weekends using their own veterinarian. Commissioner Knaan asked that the feasibility of opening the clinic to the public be calendared as a discussion item. Commissioner Rubalcava indicated it would be added to the August 8 Commission meeting.

Public Comment:

Terri Auston: This is a good idea. The clinic is a thing of beauty. We got over 100 dogs when we advertised in advanced as suggested by Commissioner Brunson. People will come on Sunday or Monday rather than Saturday or Sunday. Would be willing to commit to a pilot project two days per month for three months.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.)

Phyllis Daugherty: Reported that when Council approved the contract it was for 7,000 not the 4,500 that were in the contract. Councilman Parks was specific that the 7,000 were for one van and the City only pays for the 4,500. There is a bill in the state legislature to allow local jurisdiction to pass breed specific spay and neuter ordinances. Wants to cut down on the number of dogs that are not adoptable.

Commissioner Brunson asked the General Manager about future agenda items. One question was regarding the contract with the City of Beverly Hills. The General Manager indicated that a cost structure is being completed by next Friday (July 22, 2005). Commissioner Rubalcava asked about the possibility of opening the shelter clinic to the public. The General Manager indicated that the item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.