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EDWARD A. BOKS
General Manager

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

Edward A. Boks, General Manager

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 13, 2007 **PREPARED BY:** Linda Barth

REPORT DATE: August 8, 2007 **TITLE:** Assistant General
Manager

SUBJECT: New Hope Steering Committee Commission Appointment

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

That the Board appoint a Commissioner to participate as a member of the New Hope Steering Committee established by the General Manager.

SUMMARY:

The New Hope Program of the Department is a formalization of the efforts of rescue organizations to adopt animals with special medical or behavioral needs, or animals simply not adopted after a period of public exposure, with the primary goal giving the animals the extra care, training, time, or opportunity to find a loving family. Adoption by non-profit organizations without paying most fees is expressly permitted by the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.11(p), so long as the organization has an agreement with the City. The New Hope Program is a successor to earlier program efforts with non-profits. It was developed with the assistance of an advisory committee with rescue members and Commission representation. More than 150 rescue organizations are now partners with the Department to save animals from euthanasia because of the New Hope Program, which has been in place for over one year.

At the meeting of February 26, 2007, public comments were expressed about various successful contributions of rescue organizations, including participation in the PawFect Match adoption event and in training volunteers as counselors for adopters and relinquishment. As a result of these comments and others at meetings, along with concerns gleaned about the first year of the New Hope program, the Board

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recommended repeating the success of the formation committee by having a committee review successes of the New Hope Program as well as areas of policy, procedure, enforcement, and reporting that need improvement, updating, or modification. Such a committee could recommend revisions to the program and help with any policy implementation issues we have seen, such as receiving monthly reports.

An ad hoc group of New Hope members had been meeting over a few specific issues in the last few months, and this group became a natural source from which the General Manager appointed a standing Department Committee to be New Hope Steering Committee, to operate for one year, through September 1, 2008. In the event there may be recommendations for program modifications that would have to be considered by the Board, it seems prudent to request appointment of a Commissioner to participate in the Steering Committee.

The Committee Members as established:

- General Manager
- Assistant General Manager for Operations
- Acting Chief Veterinarian
- Director of Animal Care Center Operations (Chairperson)
- Lawrence Rose, Stray Cat Alliance
- Kari Whitman, Ace of Hearts
- Chela Landau, LAAS Volunteer and So LA shelter scout.
- Rande Levine or Cassian Sandeberg, Karma Rescue
- Daniel Banchik or Debbie Millay, Bill Memorial Foundation
- Nadine Goodreau, Best Friends Animal Society
- Pnina Gersten or Piny Dermer, at large New Hope groups and LAAS volunteers

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the establishment of the New Hope Steering Committee except that policy or procedure changes recommended might serve to make adoption processes more accurate and efficient and thus yield minor savings.

Approved:

Edward A. Boks, General Manager

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BOARD ACTION:

_____ Passed

Disapproved _____

_____ Passed with noted modifications

Continued _____

_____ Tabled

New Date _____