



MINUTES
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday October 22, 2007
10:00 P.M.
CITY HALL
200 N. Spring St.
Room 1060
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Commissioners: Tariq Khero, President
 Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President
 Glenn Brown
 Irene Ponce
 Archie Quincey, Jr.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

Commission President Khero called the Administrative Appeal Hearing to order at 10:12 A.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, and Ponce. Commissioners Brown and Quincey were absent.

1. Appeal of the General Manager's Decision in License Revocation Case – BR 06354SL

Appellant: Ms. Winifred Smith

Complaining Witness: Mr. Earnest Grant

District Manager, South Los Angeles Animal Care Center, Jorge Figueroa, Captain

Hearing Coordinator, Department of Animal Services, Ross Pool, Management Analyst II

During the Commission's deliberation regarding a verdict, the question arose as to the legality of a verdict by only three (3) Commissioners. Upon the advice of the City Attorney the verdict was held in abeyance until such time as a legal opinion could be rendered regarding the procedural question.

The Appeal Hearing for License Revocation Case – BR 06354SL will be continued to Tuesday November 13, 2007

COMMISSION MEETING

Commission President Khero called the Commission Meeting to order at 11:22 A.M. Present were Commissioners Khero, Riordan, and Ponce. Commissioners Brown and Quincey were absent.

1. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER – EDWARD BOKS

- The General Manager was recently in Lake Arrowhead with other City General Managers, the Mayor, and the Chief of Police to discuss emergency response in case of a disaster in Los Angeles. The recent crises with the Southland fires have served as a hallmark to the Department on how quickly and effectively their response has been. The level of coordination has been unprecedented.
- October 21: The City was called into Level 1 Activation in response to the Malibu fires. Twelve City departments were placed on stand-by to assist the County or any other community in need of help. Two areas of concern were the Carbon Canyon and the Los Flores Canyon communities, where the fires threatened evacuation.
- October 26-27: “The Dog Whisperer” episodes, featuring the Department, will be aired at 8PM and 11PM on Friday, and 11AM on Saturday.
- Captain Wendell Bowers, Acting Director of Field Operations, will assess what would be appropriate in regards to the purchasing of new bulletproof vests for the Animal Cruelty Task Force officers. The current vests have expired, and the officers have voluntarily decided not to put them in use.
- The General Manager clarified that no employee of the Department has posted any listings on the Craigslist website regarding the sale of animals.
- The Department will hire their fifth veterinarian before the next Commission Meeting.
- The Department will begin moving into the new West Los Angeles and West Valley Animal Care Center facilities in early November.
- The South Los Angeles Animal Care Center recently experienced a “Giardia” outbreak. Under the leadership of staff and Commissioner Ponce, 27 volunteers coordinated over the weekend and bathed 99 of the center’s dogs. The Omni Hotel graciously donated a large volume of bathrobes to be used to adequately dry the animals.
- The West Valley Animal Care Center Grand Opening is on November 29, 2007 at 10:00 AM.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Taken out of order.)

A. Update on “Giardia” Enteritis Problem at South Los Angeles Animal Care Center

Chief Veterinarian Dr. Steven Feldman, DVM, reported on the recent “Giardia” Enteritis outbreak at the South Los Angeles Animal Care Center. Approximately two weeks ago, Department staff noticed a few sporadic cases of watery diarrhea among the main kennel dogs. Fecal samples, sent to Antech Laboratory, received many positive readings for Giardia, Giardia cysts, and coccidian or roundworm/hookworm positive. Twice daily treatment with metronidazole and sulfadimethoxine was given to the affected dogs. Over the weekend of October 6, the affected female dogs appeared to be recovering and having more solid stools. However, many of the male dogs were beginning to break with diarrhea. Antibiotic treatment was immediately initiated in those kennels. To minimize the potential spreading of any contagious disease, the mobile adoptions from SLA were cancelled, and an entire ward was disinfected and reserved for the incoming impounds. Veterinarian staff decided to start treating animals even in non-affected dog kennel runs with antibiotics. A 3-day course treatment of fenbendazole (Panacur) was given to all incoming dogs in order to treat any roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms. Dr. Feldman noted that none of the animals

were euthanized as a result of the Giardia, and he believed that the outbreak was under control.
Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: Mentioned that the Augora Hills shelter had recently experienced a Giardia outbreak. Advised the General Manager that when the officers go out with LAPD, they must wear the bulletproof vests. The General Manager did not mention the Daily News article about the man who was raided for having possession of over fifty cats at his residence. After two years, the Department finally acted.

2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of August 27 and October 9, 2007

Commissioner Riordan motioned to approve the minutes for the August 27, 2007 Commission Meeting with her recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Khero and passed on a vote of 2-0. Commissioner Ponce abstained.

Commissioner Riordan motioned that the approval of the minutes for the October 9, 2007 Commission Meeting be held over to the next Commission Meeting on November 13, 2007. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Khero and passed on a vote of 3-0.

Action Item: The approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2007 to return as an agenda item for the November 13, 2007 Commission Meeting.

B. Oral Report by the Commission on Meetings and Events Attended

Commissioner Ponce volunteered at the South Los Angeles Animal Care Center on September 20. Commissioners Khero and Riordan had nothing to report.

3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION

A. Fiscal Year Budget Request 2008-2009

Ms. Linda Barth, Assistant General Manager, presented the proposed Department Budget for FY 2008-09 to be submitted to the Mayor and City Council. She noted that over the past recent months, the Mayor's Office has sent a clear message to City Departments to carefully take into consideration the current challenges facing the City's General Fund revenue base when formulating the Department Budget Request. Additionally, on September 7, the Mayor released a memorandum entitled "Changes to the FY2008-09 Budget Process" which contained preliminary budget instructions, including changes to deadlines and submittal procedures. After careful review, discussion, and consideration between the General Manager and staff, the Department compiled a slate of preliminary budget packages. The proposed packages are those that directly relate to the accomplishment of the Department's mission and primary activities of dealing with human/animal safety and reducing pet overpopulation throughout the City. Ms. Barth gave a brief overview of the packages being requested, especially noting the request for the City to regularize with continued full-year funding the positions required to effectively staff and operate the new and expanded facilities as a priority.

B. Instituting Additional Names for the City's Animal Care Centers

The names of the animal care facilities in the City are geographic labels which relate to the physical district which each serves. These official names are used on all signage and materials, including the signage constructed as part of the new facilities development under the Proposition F Animal Facilities Bond program. Generally, the geographic district labels are reasonably affiliated with the area served. The pending opening of a new Northeast Valley Animal Care Center prompted discussion about the value of considering changes to the names, for a few reasons. The new facility is very close to the historic San Fernando Mission, and use of the term "mission" in the name would help orient residents looking for the new facility. Secondly, the San Fernando Valley Animal Services area for decades was readily divided into West Valley and East Valley, but the welcome and needed addition of a third animal care center, Northeast Valley, makes the East Valley designation less precise. Further, the recent resolution of site selection issues in the south part of the City appears to be allowing the project for an eighth planned-for animal care center to resume. The existing South Los Angeles facility, which is really more in the central part of the City, could present confusion with the pending new South Los Angeles facility on St. Andrews place.

Over a period of several months, staff considered several options and alternatives for additional names. No heritage or special neighborhood name has been considered yet for the new animal care center in the southern part of the City. The East Valley facility would be associated with "Van Nuys"; The North Central facility would be associated with "Arroyo Seco"; The Northeast Valley facility would be associated with "Mission"; the South Los Angeles facility would be associated with "Exposition"; The West Los Angeles facility would be associated with "Pacific"; and the West Valley facility would be associated with "Stoney Point."

In each case, the official name of the facilities will remain as currently designated. The idea would be to slowly transition the community with the new names and connect them more closely with the communities they serve. In producing new materials like flyers or brochures, or speaking of a facility, staff could use phrasing such as, "The North Central District Animal Care Center in the Arroyo Seco," or, "Mission Animal Care Center for the Northeast Valley."

Public Comments

Phyllis Daugherty: Did not like the idea of changing the shelter names. Felt it was a bad idea and that the changes would only create confusion among the public.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Phyllis Daugherty: Hoped that when the Commission makes decisions that they think of the people who are affected by their decisions. The Commission and the Department should be serving the public. It seems like now they are serving those in small political circles. Advised to keep in mind the people with limited knowledge of our language, geography, and history. Presented old dog-fighting publications to the Commission.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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Requests from Commissioners For Future Agenda Items:

- Commissioner Riordan requested a report on the cats that were recently confiscated in a raid conducted by the Animal Cruelty Task Force.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Riordan motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ponce and passed on a vote of 3-0. The Commission Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 P.M.