

# MEETING SUMMARY



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, October 9, 2012  
10:00 AM



**Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Room 1060  
Los Angeles, California 90012**

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LISA McCURDY  
President

KATHLEEN RIORDAN  
Vice-President

JIM JENSVOLD  
TARIQ A. KHERO  
ALANA YAÑEZ

Mp3 audio Minutes are available at [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)

Commissioners McCurdy, Riordan, and Jensvold were in attendance.

## REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

### Meeting Called To Order at 10:21 AM

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction and on items not on the Agenda.)

Public Comments: The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from responding to the speakers' comments. Some of the matters raised in public comment may appear on a future agenda.

#### Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented that Pasadena Humane was re-instituting euthanasia for elderly (15 to 16 Year Old) animals. Hope the Department considers this policy.

Teri Austin: (Public Comment Reopened at the end of the meeting to allow for additional testimony) Spoke on the ending of the mobile spay and neuter program by the Amanda Foundation. Asked that the extension of the program be instituted as soon as possible.

## 2. COMMISSION BUSINESS

Approval of the minutes for the September 11, 2012 meetings.

No public comments. The minutes were held over to the next meeting to incorporate recommended changes.

### **3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **A. Report and Discussion on Establishment of Committee's**

Commission Secretary, Ross Pool discussed the report regarding the implementation of Board Committees. Commissioner Jensvold spoke on his ideas regarding the creation of temporary ad-hoc Board Committees. Does not see problems with the Brown Act. Commissioner McCurdy asked if the Commission formed a ad-hoc committee, it would be subject to the Brown Act. City Attorney indicated that it might be subject to the Act, but would need additional research to be sure. Commissioner Riordan liked the idea and suggested it be discussed at a future meeting.

Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty: Fears the committee process would have a problem with transparency. The Commission lacks expertise to be on a committee and determine a course of action.

### **4. BOARD REPORTS**

#### **A. RFP to Process Administrative Citation and Provide Support Services**

Sr. Manage Analyst, John Forland provided the history and background of the administrative citation proposals. Additionally, Mr. Forland reported on jurisdictions that have the administrative citation program and the problems with it. Commissioner McCurdy asked if a vendor would be responsible for holding hearings. General Manager Brenda Barnette commented that a vendor would be responsible for the hearings. Commissioner Riordan agrees with the fees and report. Asked how many vendors are available to respond to an RFP for administrative citation. Mr. Forland indicated they are about two dozen vendors that could respond to an RFP. When asked about a collection rate, Mr. Forland indicated that a 65% collection would be expected at the beginning of a program and rise to 75% when the program had been ongoing for a while. Commissioner Riordan asked that the RFP be returned to the Commission for approval.

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty: Happy to see the Administrative Citation issue finally being addressed.

Teri Austin: Happy to see the issue going forward. Other comments were off the subject.

**"Commissioner Riordan motioned that the department draft the RFP, bring it back to the commission for review and report back to the commission on the additional information requested"** Commissioner Jensvold seconded the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3-0.

B. Changes to the "New Hope" Program's Policies

GM Brenda Barnette outlined the proposed changes to the New Hope program. Changes include increase adoption fees charged to New Hope Partners. As animals cannot be released without being altered, it is believed this will not be a problem. An increase in the adoption fee will enable the Department meet its financial obligation. A second change is stronger tracking of animals that are sent to areas outside the area. Commissioner Jensvold asked how the tracking of animals worked. GM Barnette indicated that information must be provided as to the final destination of an animal. In addition, end adopters are contacted to ensure the animals end up where they are to be. Heavier requirements are in place to determine who the transporter is. Commissioner McCurdy asked how much was in the Spay and Neuter Fund. AGM Chavez indicated there was approximately \$900,000 in the fund. The revenue generated by the increased fee will be reclassified to the Sterilization Trust Fund. The General Manager commented that a new hope partner could lose their non-profit status if they do not spay or neuter the animals. "Commissioner Riordan asked about the \$250,000 transferred **to** the Animal Welfare Trust Fund **that was targeted for the Spay/Neuter Trust Fund**. AGM Chavez indicated that the funds were transferred to the salary account to come the cost of administering the spay and neuter program. She also asked for a City Attorney opinion about releasing unaltered animals to rescue groups. Also requested an accounting of the spay and neuter trust fund. She also asked for a City Attorney opinion about releasing unaltered **healthy** animals to rescue groups. Also requested an accounting of the spay and neuter trust fund." "Commissioner Riordan asked about the \$250,000 transferred **to** the Animal Welfare Trust Fund **that was targeted for the Spay/Neuter Trust Fund**. AGM Chavez indicated that the funds were transferred to the salary account to come the cost of administering the spay and neuter program. She also asked for a City Attorney opinion about releasing unaltered animals to rescue groups. Also requested an accounting of the spay and neuter trust fund. She also asked for a City Attorney opinion about releasing unaltered **healthy** animals to rescue groups. Also requested an accounting of the spay and neuter trust fund."

Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty: Commented that no adoption under eight weeks according to state law. Animals should be made available to public the same day they are available to rescue groups.

Commissioner Riordan motioned to bring the issue back along with a opinion by the City Attorney on the release of healthy unaltered animals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurdy and approved by a 3-0 vote.

The General Manager, Brenda Barnette, commented on the following items:

- Found Animal Foundation extended the 9 for 9 program to September 3. In addition the Pet Care Foundation promoted a program for dogs and cats over five years old. During the program 152 dogs along with 73 cats and 7 other animals were adopted, for a total of 232. This is an increase of 32% over a previous year where only 178 were adopted. The final return rate on the 9 Lives and \$9 promotion was 42 returns this year as compared to 55 returns last year. In 2011 the return rate was 11% and in 2012 the return rate stands at 6%.
- .This Thursday, a press conference is planned in the fashion district to introduce the signs that discourage the adoption of animals from street vendors. The police will step up foot patrols to discourage street vendors.
- The budget for next year will require a reduction of 10% or approximately \$2 million. This equates to the closing of a shelter and the Commission should be aware of this.
- A partial Woofstat report was presented.

Commissioner Jensvold was concerned about who was able to adopt animals. The GM reported that there has been no increase cruelty cases. Also, as a City shelter we can not refuse to adopt an animal to a person without cause. Each adoptor must present a license or other form of identification.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M November 13, 2012, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Commissioner Yanez made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and it was approved on a vote of 4-0.