

## MEETING SUMMARY



### BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Tuesday, January 12, 2010  
10:00 AM



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

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Tariq Khero, President  
Kathleen Riordan, Vice-President  
Irene Ponce  
Melanie Ramsayer  
Ruthanne Secunda

**mp3 Minutes are available at [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)**

The meeting was called to order at 10:47 am. Commissioners Khero, Ramsayer and Ponce were present. Commissioners Riordan and Ramsayer were absent.

### ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

#### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARINGS**

##### A. Dangerous Animal Case Number: DA 09340 WL

Appellant: Richard Medina and Nicole Renaud

Complaining Witness: Tina Madden

Field Operations Supervisor, West Los Angeles Animal Care Center, Lt. Jesse Castillo

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

Officer Gonzalez from the West LA Animal Care Center represented the Department.

Both sides provided supporting witnesses.

Commissioner Riordan arrived at 11:09 am

Commissioner Riordan left at 11:24 am and returned at 11:33 am

Commissioner Riordan left at 11:43 am

Commissioner Ponce left at 11:46 am

Meeting recess called at 11:46 am

Meeting resumed at 11:49 am.

Commissioner Riordan returned at noon.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to uphold the General Manager's decision to revoke the dog's license. Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. Motion deadlocked with a vote of 2 – 2.

Commissioner Khero made a motion to reinstate the license under the existing Terms and Conditions with additions to include that dog may not be allowed in the appellant's front yard when outside, a dangerous dog sign must be posted in plain sight on the appellant's property, the dog may only be in public under the control of Mr. Medina, the dog must wear a muzzle in public and Mr. Medina must carry pepper spray when walking the dog. Motion failed for a second.

Commissioner Ponce re-made a motion to uphold the General Manager's decision to revoke the dog's license and remove the dog from the City. Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. Motion deadlocked with a vote of 2 – 2.

Item is held until future meeting for deadlock vote.

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to adjourn the Administrative Hearing. Commissioner Khero seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

### **SPECIAL MEETING**

Special Meeting was called to order at 12:12 pm.

Commissioners Ramsayer, Khero, Riordan, and Ponce were present. Commissioner Secunda was absent.

#### **1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Public input regarding recruitment and selection of a Department of Animal Services General Manager

Solicitation of suggestions for the qualifications, job descriptions, performance requirements, selection criteria and recruiting ideas dealing with the appointment of a Department General Manager.

Councilmember Zine- Chair of the Personnel Committee. He stated that the search for the GM is critically important for the City. The concern is not to recycle a General Manager from another city and to break out of the GM box. He provided a list of required qualifications.

Bill Dyer- In Defense of Animals, He has been through 12 GMs and there is no one on this earth that will please everyone. He wants the new GM and the Mayor to declare Los Angeles no-kill.

Ritchie Geisel – Heaven on Earth Society for Animals and CEO Benvenidos. He provided a list of requested qualifications including someone who is passionate about animal welfare, has fierce resolve and humility, is a unifier, practices servant leadership and who has a no-kill platform.

Martin St. John- Mutt Shack Animal Rescue Foundation and sits on Jefferson Parish Animal Council. Wants to establish a set of standards called the Companion Animals Protection Act that the GM would be held accountable to. Questioned if the Unions will accept standards.

Phyllis Daugharty- We are finally rebuilding the Department from the inside out. We need to be realistic about where we are now. There is no no-kill municipal run program that has succeeded. This Department could be consolidated by the City due to the fiscal crisis and therefore we should support the current leadership and not hire a GM for another year in order to be able to attract a quality candidate.

Marlene Goodman – Senior Citizens for Human Legislation. The new GM needs to be no-kill now. We need to educate the community.

Missy Woodward- Stray Cat Alliance. A new GM needs to be able to communicate with rescue groups, deal with TNR, be a “Mayor of the Animals”, take criticism, work with the unions, be excited about saving animals, and someone from the corporate world who has a “humane cabinet.”

Daniel Guss – The Stand Foundation. Councilmembers Zine, Cardenas, Alarcon. and Rosendahl should be involved in the selection process. Communication is being cut off from the Department. Mayor’s office is not providing leadership. Need to bring in other stakeholders.

Amanda St. John – Mutt Shack Animal Rescue Foundation. The new GM needs to know how to market animals. Read the Ten Steps to No-Kill.

Alan Lachtman – Rabbi Temple Beth David. The City needs to go after private funds. We need a GM who can work with funders. Human Rights Organizations should be on the selection committee for the GM.

Shane Lachtman – Professor, Occidental College. Need a progressive no-kill GM. There is public desire for improving LA Animal Services. There should be an open selection process, with open comments and Q&A from the public and the candidates and their comments should be publically circulated.

Tina Clark – Need a GM that believes in and is committed to no-kill. They need to think outside the box and try new things. We should look within the local community for a viable candidate who is aware of the specific needs of Los Angeles.

Elizabeth Johansen - Need a GM adamant about spay/neuter, TNR and no-kill.

Kathryn Hurgreaves – LARABA. Need to implement no-kill protocols.

Christi Metropole – Stray Cat Alliance. Humane community needs to be involved in the selection process of the GM. Need to choose someone who is dynamic, works with unions, works with the community, and is correctly empowered. Embrace no-kill.

Dr. Elliot Katz – In Defense of Animals. Need a GM to inspire and bring the community together, develop people’s trust, and reach out to philanthropists. Need to increase the salary for the GM position to attract a quality candidate.

Dr. Jennifer Conrad – PAW project. Need to hire someone who is passionate and teach them the administrative skills. Just need a 2% solution. We should use television to change people's lives. LA needs to be no-kill.

Mick Mares – Wants tax dollars to be used to find homes for shelter animals. Does not want a GM candidate to come from pool of current shelter employers. Need to select someone with business, law, or advertising background who has run a 501 (c ) 3. GM must implement TNR, life-saving programs, and low-cost spay/neuter.

Micah Lachman – Need to merge no-kill with an efficient organization. No-kill saves money.

Ruth Olafsdottir – Need to hire a person who wants to do what is right for the animals.

Katya Lidsky – South LA ACC Volunteer. There is no accountability on the part of the public – need to educate. Need an adoption counselor at the shelters. Need a GM that understands multi-cultural marketing to a variety of ethnicities. Department should have a citation program. Need someone who will run the shelters like a business. Everyone needs to work together.

Danielle Stallings – Need a GM with proven skills and track record for saving animals, leadership ability, ability to run a large organization from the ground up, master of humane sheltering, success in business, committed to no-kill, and sophisticated outreach skills.

Lacey Conner – Heroes K9 Rescue. Candidate needs to have a clear understanding of PR/Marketing, make education a goal, and crack down on backyard breeders.

Laurel Kinder – Kinder4Rescue/ Project Flying Chihuahuas. Talked about her Project Flying Chihuahua program.

Sherry Brewer – Wants the shelters open later hours and a GM to encourage the staff to encourage and facilitate adoptions.

Ron Grecillo – Animal Rescuer. Large network of rescuers willing to help the Department. Don't punish people performing TNR on the streets of LA. Wild animals should be given to rehabilitators.

Diane Hariton – Need volunteer desk to educate public and help with relinquishments. Keep the rescuers involved in the candidate search.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming out and speaking.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

Special Meeting ended at 1:43 pm.

Five minute recess

### **COMMISSION MEETING**

Meeting re-commenced at 2:03 pm.

Commissioners Ramsayer, Khoro, Riordan, Ponce were present.

#### **1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

##### **A. Election of Commission Officers for 2010**

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to table the elections until the next meeting. Commissioner Riordan seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

##### **B Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2009**

Item tabled until next meeting.

##### **C. Oral Report by the Commissioners on Meetings and Events attended.**

Item tabled until next meeting.

#### **2. 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.) **Item 6 taken out of order.****

Teri Austin – Animals are being housed in abusive conditions at facility in industrial area of South LA. Woman claims to running a rescue and will not accept outside help for S/N and medical care of animals. Department needs to intervene immediately.

Hana Lieberman – She spearheaded a volunteer movement at the above referenced facility. She has witnessed many violations including dogs infested with parasites, lack of H2O, Giardia, skin infections, garbage piling up, animals breeding, etc.

Commissioner Riordan requested a follow-up report on the status of the investigation.

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

A. Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Beverly Hills for Animal Care and Control Services **Item 2A taken out of order.**

That the Board request that the Mayor, and subsequently the City Council, approve renewal forthwith of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Board of Animal Services Commission and City of Beverly Hills for animal care (sheltering) and control (enforcement) services for the second and third years, effective February 1, 2010, through January 31, 2012, to avoid service interruption.

Commissioner Ponce made a motion to approve the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Beverly Hills for Animal Care and Control Services. Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion and the motion passed 4-0.

#### **4. CLOSED SESSION**

- A. The Board of Animal Services Commissioners will meet in closed session with the City Attorney as its legal counsel pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(a) to discuss litigation involving Trap-Neuter-Return in case No. BS115483, The Urban Wildlands Group, Endangered Habitats League, Los Angeles Audubon Society et al vs. City of Los Angeles, et al. **Item 3A taken out of order.**

Closed Session began at 2:20pm.

Open Session resumed at 3:05 pm.

The Commission met on item 4A with Deputy City Attorney, Mary Decker to discuss the litigation and the appeal. No action was taken in closed session.

AGM Barth informed the Commission about a conversation with the Bureau of Engineering where for relatively small seed money they will work with the Department to use consultants already on contract as needed with the City to perform a beneficial initial analysis by meeting with stakeholders, looking at the project description and helping to determine the path forward toward doing the SEAQUA study. The Department would like to use the Animal Welfare Trust Fund for the expense.

Commissioners Ramsayer and Ponce had no objection. Commissioner Riordan requested that this be a public discussion item.

Commissioner Ponce left meeting at 3:07 pm.

#### **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

None

#### **6. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

Item tabled until next meeting

#### **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Please join us at our website: [www.LAAnimalservices.com](http://www.LAAnimalservices.com)

Requests from Commissioners for future Agenda Items.

Item tabled until next meeting.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., January 26, 2010 Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.

No motion to adjourn. Meeting ended at 3:09 pm.