

## MEETING SUMMARY



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

Tuesday, May 25, 2010  
10:00 AM



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

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

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

Commissioners Ramsayer, Secunda, and Riordan were in attendance. Commissioners Khero and Ponce were absent.

The meeting started at 10:33am

### **1. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

#### A. Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2010

Commissioner Ramsayer made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes that Commissioner Riordan requested. Commissioner Secunda seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

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

Commissioners Riordan and Secunda had nothing to report.

Commissioner Ramsayer attended Peace Day at the Westwood Recreation Center where LAAS had a mobile adoption on 5/15.

#### C. Oral Report on Status of the General Manager Recruitment

Jim Bickhart from the Mayor's Office provided an update on the status of the General Manager recruitment.

The matter is now in the hands of the Mayor. He interviewed five finalists and they expect that there will be an announcement within the next 2 weeks.

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

None

## **3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Fund Raising (Continued from the February 9th, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, and May 11, 2010, Commission Meetings)**

Discussion and input from the public on effective and efficient ideas for raising money to supplement funding for Department core responsibilities of greatest financial need, and direction to staff relative to ideas presented.

Interim GM Davis gave an update about the status of the Kennel Sponsorship Program. As of 5/24, we have exceeded \$90,000 in donations.

Commissioner Riordan requested a summary of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund detailing what we have and what the money has been spent on in the last year so that they can see what are the trends.

Commissioner Ramsayer would like to look into the cost of reordering the "Adopt Me" vests and bandanas and how many are needed per care center. Commissioner Secunda suggested that a company would pay for the vests if they could include their logo on the items.

Commissioner Ramsayer requested a report from the Volunteer Coordinator regarding how he is using volunteers to help with fundraising.

AGM Barth presented a report in Naming Opportunities Research to the Commission. The report underscored that it will take time to develop a definitive program.

### Public Comment

Phyllis Daugherty – LA County is having a barn raising and bridle registry for the Lancaster Shelter. The Duck Derby at Lake Havasu is a fun fundraising idea to consider.

### **B. Proposed Budget for 2010-2011. (Continued from the April 27th, and May 11, 2010 Meeting)**

Summary of the Mayor's proposed budget for 2010-2011 and assessment of impacts on the Department's Operations.

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

Following is a brief summary of activities conducted:

- Staff, volunteers and pets were active participants at the Best Friends Big Adoption Event Sunday. We adopted a total of 78 pets. The Mayor, Jim Bickhart, Councilman Rosendahl, and actor Harry Hamlin attended the event.

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

- Donations continue to pour in. Since the launch of our Love Plaques Program on March 17th through May 24, 2010, we've collected just over \$90,000.
- We now have volunteers doing videos of our pets at five of our Centers. EV has now joined NC, WLA, Harbor and SLA. The videos work magic with getting those fortunate featured pets adopted.
- On May 15, 2010, Pits and Pals returned to SLA. Our donor, Mrs. Joan Kelly, visited the event and was excited to see 110 dogs receive sterilization surgery.
- 13 Chihuahuas got their wings and flew to their new home in Maine. Within a day, 8 of the 13 had been adopted. This is the pilot for a new way to do transports. The largest costs for transports are the carriers and the air fare. Maine sent us the carriers and a donor paid for the initial cost of airfare. The receiving shelter has pledged to reserve a portion of their adoption fee to fund the cost of the next flight, creating the perpetual pet program. Since the first of the year, we completed transports sending 485 pets to other shelters.
- We had another interesting case that further supports the value of microchips. We seized 2 dogs and one cat from an address in San Pedro. The dogs had hair loss, oozing sores, scaly skin, fleas, and appeared to be underweight. The cat appeared healthy, however, was also infested with fleas. The dwelling was choked with clutter, debris, moldy food, and overrun by rats. When we brought the pets back to our Center, we discovered a microchip in one of the dogs that trailed back to a neighbor of this location. They were ecstatic to get our call and quickly came to redeem the animal once evidence had been collected sufficient for charges that will be filed against the occupant of the house. The dog, "Storm", had been missing almost a year.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- There are 13 mobile adoption events planned for the month of June.
- Councilmember Cardenas will be holding the annual Pet Care Fair on June 12 at Woodley Park
- We are also working in partnership with The Found Animal Foundation on June 19 during our discount adoption week, entitled Better with a Buddy. FAF will be picking up the cost of the second pet adopted on that day.
- On June 8, 2010, we are the hosts for a press conference at WLA to announce the California S/N License Plate Program. Guests include Bob Barker, Pierce Brosnan and representatives from the California Veterinary Medical Association. The Program will fund s/n surgeries through a portion of the fees. All are welcome to attend.

#### **Public Comment**

Phyllis Daugherty – She expressed her thanks to Interim GM Davis and AGM Barth for all of their work. She also suggested that at the 2-for-1 event that people be allowed to receive a certificate to choose a second animal at a later date.

**5. 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.)

Phyllis Daugherty – There is a noted cockfighter in court and the District Attorney is taking the charges very seriously. She stated that we need to go after breeding for fighting as a separate category– that is where the money is.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Riordan requested a:

- Report and/or discussion item on S/N activities at the clinics including what is being charged and the number of surgeries performed and the surgeries performed through the voucher program.
- Report on the cruelty field service calls per shelter per district including how many calls, how many have the officers gone out on, how many have resulted in citations, the nature of the citations and the follow-up.

Commissioner Secunda requested a:

- Report on latest from Santee Alley
- Report from Volunteer Coordinator regarding the status of fundraising and volunteers.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Riordan made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Ramsayer seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting concluded at 12:12pm

Next Commission Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., June 8, 2010, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1060, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.