



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

**10:00 A.M.**

LOS ANGELES CITY HALL, ROOM 1060  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

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DAVID ZAFT  
President

LARRY GROSS  
Vice-President

ALISA FINSTEN  
OLIVIA E. GARCÍA  
ROGER WOLFSON

Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For information please call (213) 482-9558.

Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de hacer pedido con 24 horas de anticipo al (213) 482-9558.

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS**

**1. Dangerous Animal Revocation Case: DR 162143 EV** *(Decision continue from 10/11/16)*

Respondent: Doris McClerkin and Malvin McClerkin

East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox

Complaining Witness: Alma Guerrero

**2. Dangerous Animal Revocation Case: DR 156018 EV** *(Decision continued from 10/11/16)*

Respondent: Anthony Rey Lopez and Michelle Lee Oliveros Rey

East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox

Complaining Witness: East Valley Animal Care and Control

**3. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 161175 WLA**

Respondent: Gabriel Perez, Joseph Perez and Nicole Perez

West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control:

Complaining Witness: Shohreh Marviz

**II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

- 1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction that are not on the Agenda; two minutes per speaker.)

**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.

- 2. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS** - (Discussion with Neighborhood Council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda for the Board of Animal Services Commissioners)

**3. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

A. Approval of the Minutes for Meeting of October 25, 2016 (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker):

B. Approval of 2017 Board Meeting Schedule (Action item; public comment limited to one minute per speaker):

- 4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker):

- 5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

- 6. BOARD REPORTS** – (None)

- 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS** – (None)

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. November 22, 2016 at City Hall 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, Los Angeles, California 90012. (Enter on Main Street).

**AGENDAS** - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Regular Meetings are held at City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Room 1060, in Los Angeles, CA 90012. Evening Meetings are held in various locations throughout the City, from 7:00 to approximately 9:30 P.M. The agendas for Board meetings contain a brief general description of those items to be considered at the meetings. Board Agendas are available at the Department of Animal Services (Department), Administrative Division, 221 North Figueroa Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Public Bulletin Board in City Hall East, 200 North Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Internet users may also access copies of present and prior agenda items, copies of the Board Calendar, MP-3 audio files of meetings as well as electronic copies of approved minutes on the Department's World Wide Web Home Page site at <http://www.laanimalservices.com/CommissionAgendas.htm>

Three (3) members of the Board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Some items on the Agenda may be approved without any discussion.

The Board Secretary will announce the items to be considered by the Board. The Board will hear the presentation on the topic and gather additional information from Department Staff. Once presentations have finished, the Board President will ask if any Board Member or member of the public wishes to speak on one or more of these items. Each speaker called before the Commission will have one (1) minute to express their comments and concerns on matters placed on the agenda. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes.)

**PUBLIC INPUT AT BOARD MEETINGS – Public Participation on Agenda Items.** Members of the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on agenda items after the item is called and before the Board takes action on the item, unless the opportunity for public participation on the item was previously provided to all interested members of the public at a public meeting of a Committee of the Board and the item has not substantially changed since the Committee heard the item. When speaking to an agenda item other than during Public Comment (see Public Comment below), the speaker shall limit his or her comments to the specific item under consideration (California Government Code, Section 54954.3).

**Public Comment.** The Board will provide an opportunity for public comment at every regular meeting of the Board. Members of the public may address the Board on any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board as part of Public Comment.

**Speaker Cards.** Members of the public wishing to speak are to fill out one speaker card for each agenda item on which they wish to speak and present it to the Board secretary **before** the item is called.

**Time Limit for Speakers.** Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item except during general public comment period which is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker. (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes each.). The Chairperson, with the approval of a majority of the Board, may for good cause extend any speaker's time by increments of up to one (1) minute.

**Brown Act.** These rules shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Section § 54950 et seq.

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.** Speakers are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from personal attacks or use of profanity or language that may incite violence.

All persons present at Board meetings are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from disrupting the meeting, interfering with the rights of others to address the Board and/or interfering with the conduct of business by the Board.

In the event that any speaker does not comply with the foregoing requirements, or if a speaker does not address the specific item under consideration, the speaker may be ruled out of order, their speaking time forfeited and the Chairperson may call upon the next speaker.

The Board, by majority vote, may order the removal from the meeting of any speaker or audience member continuing to behave in a disruptive manner after being warned by the Chairperson regarding their behavior. Section 403 of the California Penal Code states as follows: "Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting that is not unlawful in its character, other than an assembly or meeting referred to in Section 302 of the Penal Code or Section 18340 of the Elections Code, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

**VOTING AND DISPOSITION OF ITEMS** – Most items require a majority vote of the entire membership of the Board (3 members). When debate on an item is completed, the Board President will instruct the Secretary to "call the roll". Every member present must vote for or against each item; abstentions are not permitted unless there is a Conflict of Interest for which the Board member is obliged to abstain from voting. The Secretary will announce the votes on each item. Any member of the Board may move to "reconsider" any vote on any item on the agenda, except to adjourn, suspend the Rules, or where an intervening event has deprived the Board of jurisdiction, providing that said member originally voted on the prevailing side of the item. The motion to "reconsider" shall only be in order once during the meeting, and once during the next regular meeting. The member requesting reconsideration shall identify for all members present the Agenda number and subject matter previously voted upon. A motion to reconsider is not debatable and shall require an affirmative vote of three members of the Board.

When the Board has failed by sufficient votes to approve or reject an item, and has not lost jurisdiction over the matter, or has not caused it to be continued beyond the next regular meeting, the issue is again placed on the next agenda for the following meeting for the purpose of allowing the Board to again vote on the matter.

**BOARD OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES  
COMMISSIONERS**

DAVID ZAFT  
PRESIDENT

LARRY GROSS  
VICE PRESIDENT

**COMMISSIONERS**

ALISA FINSTEN

OLIVIA E. GARCIA

ROGER WOLFSON

**City of Los Angeles**

CALIFORNIA



**ERIC GARCETTI  
MAYOR**

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BRENDA F. BARNETTE  
GENERAL MANAGER

DANA H. BROWN  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

VACANT  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARINGS**

**To Be Held:**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016, at 10:00 A.M.**

**City Hall**

**200 North Spring Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 1060**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

*(Entrance on Main Street)*

This serves as formal notice pursuant to Section § 53.18(q) 4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to the following parties and witnesses in the appeal(s) listed below:

1. **Dangerous Animal Revocation Case: DR 162143 EV** *(Decision continued from 10/11/16)*  
Respondent: Doris McClerkin and Malvin McClerkin  
East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox  
Complaining Witness: Alma Guerrero
2. **Dangerous Animal Revocation Case: DR 156018 EV** *(Decision continued from 10/11/16)*  
Respondent: Anthony Rey Lopez and Michelle Lee Oliveros Rey  
East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox  
Complaining Witness: East Valley Animal Care and Control
3. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 161175 WLA**  
Respondent: Gabriel Perez, Joseph Perez and Nicole Perez  
West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers  
Complaining Witness: Shohreh Marviz

These hearings will not be rescheduled, except for good cause.

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

For additional information, please refer to the Board's "Rules and Procedures for Appeals", or contact the Department of Animal Services at (213) 482-9558, or visit the Department's website: <http://www.laanimalservices.com/>. Written statements are to be submitted to the Commission seven days prior and, if in excess of 50 pages, seven hard copies must be provided. You may submit your statement (50 pages or less) via email to: [ani.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ani.commission@lacity.org).

*Para información en español, llame al (213) 482-9558.*

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**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

Visit our website at [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016 7:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING  
WEST LOS ANGELES ANIMAL SHELTER  
1361 WEST PICO BLVD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90064

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Audio MP-3 Recording is available at [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)

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David Zaft, President  
Larry Gross, Vice-President  
Alisa Finsten  
Olivia E. García  
Roger Wolfson

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. Commissioners present were Zaft, García, Gross, Finsten and Wolfson arrived late. Also present from Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) Board Secretary Regina Gallegos; General Manager (GM) Brenda Barnette and Assistant City Attorney (ACA) Dov Lesel.

**Commissioner Zaft** welcomed Commissioner Finsten and recognized the passing of Tom Hayden. Opened the meeting and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

## I. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

### 1. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Lisa Edmondson** stated that she attended the grand opening at North Central shelter over ten years ago and nothing has changed for the rabbits. The rabbits are outside and kept in cages next to the dog kennels; sheets were placed over the rabbit cages to keep the sun out. It was promised that the rabbits would be kept indoors. The General Manager did not create this situation; she has gone above and beyond for the rabbits.

**Junko Elwell** stated that the rabbits shouldn't be kept outside with the barking dogs. Rabbits are very sensitive to temperature. LAAS needs to move the rabbits indoors.

**Commission Zaft** reminded the public due to the State Brown Act the Commission cannot respond to public comment. However, all comments are taken into consideration.

**Barbara Trelease** stated that the condition of the rabbits has not changed in the last 10 years; rabbits are outside baking in the hot sun in an area with barking dogs.

**Andrew S. Brown:** stated that there needs to be clarification and consistency regarding the eligibility for New Hope rescue. This needs to be fair and handle

the same way for everybody; supervisors need to know what the rules are so they can be followed. He would like to see the word “unpredictable” retired.

**Martha Cisneros** stated that she is taking care of pets that people have left behind. She cares for the pets and takes them for medical attention; she is saving lives.

**David Moskowitz** stated that rabbits are most active during the night time and need rest during the day. It is not healthy when the rabbits are outside next to barking dogs. The public will see the rabbits in terrible shape due to the heat and noise.

**Joann Smith** stated that it's very hot for the rabbits during the day. They don't eat and are not active; pigeons nesting above the rabbit areas; rabbits should be indoors or dispersed to other shelters.

**Monica Harmon** stated that she attended the meeting to support her neighbor Martha Cisneros. Martha is paying out of pocket to save the lives of animals; she is saving tax payers money; an article in City Watch LA reported a falsified report of 8,807 pet adoptions.

**Michelle Kelly** shared her concerns regarding the North Central shelter rabbit area. The community was promised that rabbits would be put indoors. SLA shelter has a good rabbit area; suggestions were discussed at the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting; only some suggestions were implemented.

**Commissioner Zaft** thanked the public speakers. The North Central Animal shelter rabbit area is being worked on and changes will be made.

2. **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENTS-** (Discussion with Neighborhood Council representatives on Neighborhood Council Resolutions or Community Impact Statements filed with the City Clerk which relate to any agenda item listed or being considered on this agenda for the Board of Animals Services Commissioners.)

### 3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting of October 11, 2016.

**Commissioner Gross** made a motion to approve the minutes. **Commissioner Garcia** seconded the motion and was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Public Comment  
None



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

**GM Barnette** discussed the following:

- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Make It Happen Productions visited the East Valley Animal shelter.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup> Lois Dedeaux was appointed interim Assistant General Manager.
- On October 11<sup>th</sup> City Council confirmed appointment of new Animal Services Commissioner Alisa Finsten.
- PetCo is sponsoring a Holiday Wishes Program. Those that have adopted a pet can submit entries.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> Housing & LAAS
- On October 18-20, Assistant General Manager Louis Dedeaux and Robert Cabral, Founder and Executive Director of Bound Angels Shelter Rescue Support conducted another training seminar where they train animal care professionals and volunteers on how to properly identify K9 behaviors using safer animal handling skills and adoption techniques in an effort to increase adoptions in the City of Los Angeles and nationwide.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Wynonna Judd and Cesar Millan joined forces at the East Valley Animal Shelter to promote an adoption event "Home for the Pawlidays" which will be held at shelters across the country Black Friday through Cyber Monday.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup> spoke at the Los Angeles Equestrian Advisory Committee. There are 11 active members that represent horse communities. The discussion was on licensing and Microchipping for horses and dogs.
- On October 19, the ASPCA will be celebrating their completion of 20,000 spay and neuter surgeries since their arrival to Los Angeles and would like to accredit part of that to Animal Services. This celebration will be held at our Chesterfield Square South LA animal shelter and has the potential to draw in media and celebrity appearances. The ASPCA has also invited shelter staff to join them in the celebration.
- There were several events over the past weekend.
  - The Fur is Flying" discount adoptions held all weekend October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Sponsored by The Pet Care Foundation had a total of 232 adoptions, 102 cats, 121 dogs, 4 other and 5 rabbits.
  - "Sherman Oaks Street Fair" both East and West Valley shelters attended with a total of 18 pets, 7 cats were adopted and 7 dogs were adopted. It was estimated over 150 thousand people attended the fair!!



- “Race for the Rescues” held at the Pasadena Rose Bowl saw 10 dog adoptions and 7 cats adoptions. Below is a picture of staff and volunteers who attended the event.
- October 17th -The Pet Care Foundation filmed their “Adopt a Pet” show at our North Central Animal Shelter. Staff member Tiffani Hamilton helped showcase adoptable dogs and cats and talked about what’s new at the shelter.
- North Central Facility and General Services are working to resolve an on- going underground water leak in the new kennel areas.
- DFO Mark Salazar met with Fleet Services on October 19th at the vendor constructing the animal compartments for the new animal collection vehicles. The first of next shipment of vehicles was completed and being reviewed by Mark and Fleet. There were some alterations made to the agreed upon specifications which are now being reviewed with Fleet Services. The Department is anticipating that the vendor will make corrections expeditiously.
- October 25th - Photo contest winners luncheon sponsored by The Pet Care Foundation.
- October 27th - “Know Your Rights” Workshop for pets in rental housing to be held at the East Valley Animal Shelter at 6:30 p.m.
- October 29th - the Homeless Pet Services Center co-operated by Downtown Dog Rescue, Inner City Law Center and Los Angeles Animal Services will partner with Spay4LA to host Skid Row Spay/Neuter Day for Dogs and Cats. Spay4LA will be doing the surgeries as well as vaccinating, microchipping, treating mange, ear infections, and mini wellness exams. This event targets both homeless people with pets as well as pet owners living in section 8 and SRO housing.
- A special discount for all cats (adults and kittens) begins October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- November 19-20<sup>th</sup> - Basic Black discount event.
- Officers have been extremely busy; they are at risk every day. An officer was called out to get to aggressive dogs; the dogs charged him; it was a close call. Received a call on tethered dogs in a yard; Officers are sent out on all calls; there was a call on a snake at a residence; thanked the Officers for all their help.

Public Comment:

**Phyllis Daugharty** mentioned that the 5 trucks are very large trucks. The Officers cannot see what is ahead; this is dangerous on narrow roads;

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might run over animals; hopefully this has changed. Regarding tethering, in the last meeting General Manager Barnette suggested that the City permit the homeless to tether- this means everybody.

**Andrew S. Brown** proposed the Department make a flyer on the PetCo Holiday Wishes to be passed out to the adopters at shelters.

**5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker).

**Commissioner Garcia** thanked everyone for attending the meeting. We are listening and taking all public comments into consideration. Our goal is to reach the "No Kill" status next year and we will need everyone's help to maintain "No Kill".

**Commissioner Zaft** the last community meeting will be on December 13, 2016. Ms. Francisa Boxa will present a report on the summary from community meetings. The report will assist in moving forward to develop a strategic plan for the Department.

**Commissioner Finsten** thanked everyone for the warm welcome; looking forward to working with the Commission, Department and Community.

**Commissioner Gross** stated that this is the second year of the Pet Housing workshops which have been well attended. He thanked Karrie De Mascio and everyone for their help. The Sherman Oaks Festival was a great success.

**GM Barnette** mentioned that Council introduced a motion supporting the Departments Coyote report. The Department will work with LA Sanitation to provide wildlife receptacles for the City.

Public Comment  
None

**6. BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Woofstat Report for September 2016. Staff Report.** (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker):

**GM Barnette** highlighted some items from the report; there are technical problems with the volunteer data; cats have increased this may be due to not spaying all cats in the City; rabbit intake is down. The Live/Save rate is at 80%. Licensing is down this may be due to new canvassers and Officers working out in the field. **Commissioner Zaft** mentioned the cats live/save rate for the first 3 months of last fiscal year is 36%; for first 3 months this year is at 68%. This is great progress; SLA shelter and partners to be applauded. There

is increase in adoption to the public at 12% for the first quarter. **GM Barnette** thanked the Commission for agreeing to allow shelters to hold highly adoptable animals over the weekend. **Commissioner Garcia** mentioned that the Safe at Home is a great program.

Public Comment  
None

- B. Staff Report on Dog Playgroups.(Public comment limited to one minute per speaker):

**AGM Dedeaux** provided an oral report on the dog playgroups. From June-Sept there were 360 playgroups and 318 dogs were adopted. WLA shelter had 135 playgroups; East Valley had 37 large dog playgroups; Harbor had 86 play groups and 34 dogs were adopted. SLA had 97 playgroups; North Central and West Valley shelters did not have many playgroups due to the hot weather. Training for dog playgroups will be scheduled in December. There are playgroups taking place around the country. Banners advertising the playgroups have been put outside the shelters. **Commissioner Gross** asked if there are any challenges or needs. **AGM Dedeaux** responded the challenge is not having enough volunteers. **Commissioner Zaft** asked if volunteers reach into the population of dogs. **AGM Dedeaux** responded that volunteers do have their favorites but all dogs participate in the playgroups. **Commissioner Wolfson** thanked AGM Dedeaux for his efforts on the dog playgroups; playgroups have many benefits; people see the rewards and animals get adopted. This is an example under GM Barnette's leadership where things can get better. **Commissioner Zaft** concurred with Commissioner's Wolfson's statement and emphasized to continue tracking the kennel enrichment.

Public Comment:

**Andrew S. Brown** stated that East Valley dog playgroups numbers are down; most of the dog playgroups are staff and volunteers. There have been occasions when staff members are rescheduled from playgroups; suggested supervisors consider making playgroups priority since there are not enough volunteers.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Discussion Concerning Use of Breed Classifications in Municipal and State Canine Regulations. (Public comment limited to one minute per speaker.)

**Commissioner Zaft** talked about the use of breed classifications; conveyed a few materials to share about the subject. Montreal and different urban areas crosswise over North America have passed a pit bull ban; doesn't expect this would pass in the City of Los Angeles. It's an intense subject matter when

individuals get hurt or dogs hurt other animals. People can be killed and lives can be changed. The Commission has seen some disturbing fact patterns. This is an issue about dangerous animals and how we direct and control them. Does the City or Department need to stand firm in banning pit bulls; asked how pit bulls are being recognized. There have been various studies from shelter staff recognizing breeds and innate testing. The American Bar Association has strongly denounced breed specific legislation. The United States Department of Justice (Civil Rights Division) is solidly against breed specific legislation. Ohio passed a law and revoked any breed municipalities. Utah has taken comparable measures. There is a pattern to deny breed specific discrimination or breed specific legislation in a least 20 states however not in California; the City of Los Angeles can take a stand and be a pioneer on this issue. We absolutely believe we need vigorous enforcements of the City's ordinances that deal with dangerous animals; this should be based on the conduct of the animal in which is often related to the conduct of the owners and shouldn't be founded on what breed or perceived breed. **GM Barnette** encourages the Commission and the City of Los Angeles to oppose breed specific legislation; have been an opponent of breed legislation for many years. **Commissioner Garcia** what is our plan. **GM Barnette** responded that the Department would propose writing a report on opposing breed specific legislation. **Commissioner Finsten** asked if this topic has come up in the past. **AGM Dedeaux** responded it hasn't. **Commissioner Wolfson** thanked the Commission for including this item on the agenda; proud of the City and the direction of avoiding breed specification legislation; there are broader implications; has spend time in shelters and it is challenging for the staff when the shelter is predominately one major breed; this is a real issue. What about a policy in the City based on the information of the number one breed in the shelter to put restrictions on breeding in the City of Los Angeles. **GM Barnette** mentioned around 16% of the animals coming into City shelters are pit bulls and the reason it appears at 80% is on account of we give them as long as we can to save lives. **Commissioner Garcia** asked Commissioner Wolfson to expand on the issues. **Commissioner Wolfson** responded that pit bulls tend to represent 50 to 60% of the population in our shelters, but his hypothetical regulation would not involve any prejudice toward any breed. It would just, hypothetically, say that breeding of any breed that is over-represented in shelters be limited. **Commissioner Zaft** noted there is a spay/neuter law; dogs can be breed legally. The challenge is when people don't comply with the law. There may be many enforcement issues. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated that if there is a real problem adopting the animal then there is not a need for that particular breed. This would be a purely economic decision, and not involve prejudices related to that dog breed. But ultimately, based on this conversation, it seems as though this hypothetical regulation wouldn't be helpful. But he thanked the group for participating in discussing it. **GM Barnette** expressed that the numbers of specific breeding licenses can be retrieved from the data base. **ACA Lesel** mentioned that in addition to to the points made, if there is one specific breed coming into the shelters perhaps cut back on those. We don't

know how many animals are coming into the shelters; pit bulls take longer to adopt and this gives a false picture; particularly difficult to follow up on. **Commissioner Zaft** specified that dogs may come in the shelter for three to four months which is not perfect; other shelter systems will euthanize following a week or two. We are giving the dogs, volunteers and staff as much a possibility conceivable to get the dogs placed. **Commissioner Gross** specified that if we are basing it to what the volunteers are seeing this may not be a precise picture of what we are forcing a limitation on. **Commissioner Wolfson** stated that whatever breed takes the longest to adopt because of surplus, we should theoretically restrict the breeding of those dogs; however this may not work or not be desirable; asked if the restriction would work in the Department. **Commissioner Gross** stated that we are setting a limitation on the premise on the hardest to adopt not the animal that is being breed.

Public Comment:

**Drew Marsden** stated that Best Friends has a great partnership with LAAS. We have taken in a large number of what has been identified by the Department as pit bulls. In doing our own testing we have proven less than 30% of those breed ratings have been accurate; to speak to Commissioner's Zaft's point that often the Department isn't accurate to hold a particular breed or perception of a breed accountable this will be detrimental to the progress we are making for "No Kill". In the early 1990s Pasadena attempted to pass a breed specific legislation toward pit bulls. The humane society imposed the law and killed pit bulls or pit bulls identified dogs. The city repelled the law in 1992 and reproached by the council in 2013; it didn't pass. There were some recommendations such as what Commissioner Wolfson had mentioned. **Commissioner Wolfson** asked if Best Friends identifies the breed on the website; suggested to the Commission a discussion on not identifying specific breed on the website. **Commissioner Zaft** stated that we don't have the ability of guiding and interfacing with the adopters such as rescues. Some dogs are going to be challenging not because they are bad dogs but because they are large dogs; make sure all adoptions are successful as possible. **GM Barnette** mentioned it is a balancing act; can see this in smaller organizations and agencies.

**Phyllis Daugherty** stated that when you have shelters not indicating the breed this will stop breed rescue; you will drive people to breeders. This is not fair; people need to know the breed; not change state law about breeding. If an area wants a moratorium on breeding they should have that right; we think Los Angeles is influential- we are not- it's all money driven. I am an expert on pit bulls; it has nothing to do with breed but with bloodline.

**Andrew Brown** stated that breed specific legislation is based on animal attacks or fatal mauling because the higher percentages are pit bulls. It ignores the overwhelming majority of pit bulls that are guilty of nothing. There are other factors beside breed. Most pit bulls are not dangerous; breed is way



down the list in terms of what causes an animal to be dangerous; would like to challenge Los Angeles to introduce legislation to prohibit landlords restricting based on breed of dogs. We should have an option of saying mixed breed dogs. **Commissioner Gross** mentioned that at the Pet and Housing Workshops Animal Control Officers dependably make a point that they have been bitten by smaller dogs. **Commissioner Wolfson** mentioned that many people ask if the Department can take the breed off the cards so they can take their pit mix home with them; on the flip side landlords may use this as an excuse not allowing animals in rentals. **Commissioner Gross** mentioned that Councilmember Koretz introduced a motion to request contribution from both landlords and renters so we can open doors; this works both ways. **Commissioner Zaft** stated that this is an issue where effort and engagement is the better course. Regularly this is seen mostly in sizes with dog and cats; being careful about respecting and engaging with landlords to try and open up many apartments for animals; hesitant to put restrictions on property owners on how to use their property. **Commissioner Wolfson** mentioned solutions are: outreach, education and discussions; thanked Commissioner Zaft.

**Commission Wolfson** made a motion to adjourn the meeting in honor of Commissioner Garcia's wedding and the passing of Tom Hayden. **Commissioner Zaft** seconded and it was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Meeting ended at 8:55 p.m.

**BOARD OF  
ANIMAL SERVICES  
COMMISSIONERS**

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PRESIDENT

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**COMMISSIONERS**

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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**LOUIS P. DEDEAUX**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Date: November 8, 2016

To: Board of Animal Services Commissioners

From: Regina Gallegos, Board Secretary

Subject: CALENDAR YEAR 2017 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

In order to effectively plan for forthcoming Board of Animal Services Commission events, a schedule of meeting dates is submitted for your approval. Please review the list of prospective meeting dates and indicate any changes that may be required.

The proposed 2017 Animal Services Commission meeting dates are as follows:

MONTH	MEETING DATE	MEETING LOCATION	TIME	ADDRESS
January	10	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	24	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
February	14	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	28	West Valley	7:00 PM	20655 Plummer St., Chatsworth
March	14	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	28	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
April	11	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	25	East Valley	7:00 PM	14409 Vanowen St., Van Nuys
May	9	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	23	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
June	13	Harbor	7:00 PM	957 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro
	27	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
July	11	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	25	South LA	7:00 PM	1850 West 60 <sup>th</sup> St., L.A.
August	8	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	22	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
September	12	Mission Hills	7:00 PM	15321 Brand Blvd., Mission Hills
	26	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
October	10	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	24	West LA	7:00 PM	11361 W. Pico Blvd., L.A.
November	14	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
	28	City Hall	10:00 AM	200 N. Spring St., Rm. 1060
December	12	North Central	7:00 PM	TBD
	26	No Meeting		

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