



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, March 14, 2017**  
**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

OLIVIA E. GARCÍA  
ROGER WOLFSON  
ALISA FINSTEN

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. Barking Dog Revocation Noise Case: BR 161256 EV** *(Decision continued from 2/14/17)*

Respondent: Glenn Morren

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

Complaining Witness: Bruce Gale

**2. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 161246 BH**

Respondent: Ezra and Cynthia Ozer

West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers

Complaining Witness: Zohreh Kangavary

3. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 172068 BH**  
Respondent: Ezra and Cynthia Ozer  
West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers  
Complaining Witness: Hasti Merabi
4. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 161322 WLA**  
West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers  
Respondent: Joana Cruz  
Complaining Witness: Olga Jerinic and Paul Koenig

## **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 February 28, 2017. (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**

- A. Staff Request for Approval of Use of Animal Welfare Trust Fund to Purchase Shelter Safety Equipment. (Action Item; Public Comment limited to two minutes per speaker).
- B. Staff Report of Inventory of Dogs Currently Impounded as Evidence Animals. (Public Comment limited to one minute per speaker).
- C. Staff Report on Pending Hearings. (Public Comment limited to one minute per speaker).

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., March 28, 2017, 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  
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# City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
MAYOR

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GENERAL MANAGER

DANA H. BROWN  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

LOUIS P. DEDEAUX  
INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

## NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARINGS

To Be Held:  
Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 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. **Barking Dog Revocation Noise Case: BR 161256 EV** (*Decision continued from 2/14/17*)  
Respondent: Glenn Morren  
East Valley Animal Care and Control: Captain Karen Knipscheer-Cox  
Complaining Witness: Bruce Gale
2. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 161246 BH**  
Respondent: Ezra and Cynthia Ozer  
West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers  
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4. **Dangerous Animal Case: DA 161322 WLA**  
Respondent: Joana Cruz  
West Los Angeles Animal Care and Control: Captain Wendell Bowers  
Complaining Witness: Olga Jerinic and Paul Koenig

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.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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

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.*



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, February 28, 2017 7:00 PM**

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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. Garcia  
Roger Wolfson

Meeting called to order at 7:12 p.m. Commissioners present were Zaft, Gross, Finsten, Garcia and Wolfson arrived late. 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** provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

**I. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING** *(heard after item 3.A.)*

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Lisa Lange:** Expressed her dissatisfaction with respect to LAAS Department phone line; there is no direct emergency phone number. The phone numbers to the shelters are incorrect; requested that the Board address the situation.

**Diane Mendoza:** Stated that there are many frustrated people with respect to LAAS phone line; over 150 calls were made to North Central Animal Shelter regarding an injured skunk before someone picked up the call. The wildlife number refers the caller to their local shelter; this has to be fixed.

**Andrea Adelman:** Requested Spay/Neuter vouchers are available to public on the web, shelters and council offices.

**Andrew S. Brown:** Expressed his concerns regarding the auction process; participants of the action are not given an opportunity to meet the animal; suggested that staff at the shelter announcement when the auction is to take place and provide a description of the animal; suggested when list of participants is finalized have an ACT or Volunteer gather the participants to spend 5 to 10 minutes to interact with the animal then proceed with the auction.

**Lisa Edmundsen:** Mentioned the importance of Pet Press at shelters; it's not fair to the animals and the people of Los Angeles if removed from shelters.

**Marla Tauscher:** Expressed her disappointment with the Department in regards to her client's dog "Cooper" who was euthanized on October 4, 2016; mentioned there's an ongoing lawsuit; disappointed with the Department's procedures and hearing officers.



**Sherry Brewer:** Expressed concerns on potentially dangerous animals at shelters. The hearing files of these animals remain at the shelter and little information is entered into the computer. The hearing examiners' reports must be made public.

**Paula Hsien:** Talked about potentially dangerous animals that remain at shelters; they have restricted conditions for adoptions; asked what resources the Department is investigating to help dogs find rescues; would like to see the Department do more for potentially dangerous animals; the process has to be changed; too many dogs have suffered.

**David Weiner:** Echoed the phone system issue. Pet press is an essential resource to the community especially to those who don't have a computer; if Pet Press is removed from shelters it will hurt the animals. Lobby for mandatory spay/neuter laws for bunnies; commended the shelter on the information packets on bunnies.

**Chris Anderson:** Explained his bad experiences with the Department. The Department needs to review their policy; this is an unjust.

**Gale Raff:** Mentioned the Pet Press is very important; asked why monies were utilized from the Animal Trust Fund to upkeep the Clinic; concerns on cats; mentioned the Hayden Law.

**Martha Chaffin:** Echoed support on potentially dangerous dogs that are being punished at the shelters; supports Pet Press; mentioned concern on spay/neuter cats 1.5 lbs/6 weeks; asked the Department to do more research.

**Whitney Smith:** Echoed support on potentially dangerous dogs; why punish the dogs it's the owners who should be impounded. The 1.5 lbs/6 weeks is ridiculous on spay/neuter cats. Pet Press is a valuable resource.

**Kathy Serksnas:** Mentioned that Pet Press is a valuable resource; asked about kitten pilot program at the West Valley Shelter; requested that shelters stay open until 7 p.m. The 1.5 lbs/6 weeks is ridiculous.

**Pat Kramer:** Talked about a neighbor who is tethering their dog; has talked to the owner; provided the Department with the information asked for a follow-up from the Department to follow up on the situation.

**Mitchell Schwartz:** Mentioned he is a candidate for Mayor. There are many problems with the City. The two departments that lead the City with complaints are DWP and LAAS. The shelters are in bad shape; standards of care are not good; outreach is lacking; real problems in the agency.



**Richard Katz:** Pet Press is a very effective; encourages the Department to reconsider pet press; keep Pet Press in shelters.

**Daniel Heeter:** Mentioned he delivers Pet Press; shared a letter from Jennifer Yates stating how important Pet Press is to the community; good things are said about Pet Press.

**James Hart:** Serves with Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council. Mentioned the General Manager's annual salary; expects high results from the leader of a Department; when public loses faith a change is not only necessary but healthy.

**Lori Golden:** Mentioned is the Publisher of the Pet Press. Talked about how long the Pet Press has been in publication; services LAAS has benefited from Pet Press. Pet Press is at numerous libraries. Pet Press benefits the animals and people of Los Angeles.

**Laura Dash:** Mentioned Pet Press has been around for eighteen years; takes a stack of newsletters to Petco. Pet Press has informative articles; please keep in shelters.

**Paul Darrigo:** Asked the Commission to create goals for the shelters. Pet Press magazine is invaluable.

**Kathy Fritzen:** Talked about Pet Press; hands out the magazines; provides an alternative for the community.

**David Hernandez:** Mentioned he is a candidate for Mayor. Talked about the notes he took from the meeting; no emergency phone number; interaction with animals; ignoring a law suit; challenges with Hearing Officers; hoping all can work together.

**Dana Strangel:** Mentioned Pet Press has been very helpful; this magazine reaches the community. Asked about the status of the Reserved Animal Control Officer

**Ethel Pawlak:** Talked about Pet Press; people to benefit are low income citizens; asked to keep Pet Press in shelters.

**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)

Public Comment:  
None

### 3. COMMISSION BUSINESS

- A. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation for Mimi Alet, West Valley Volunteer. *(heard before item 1.1)*

**Commissioner Zaft** shared a short biography and presented the certificate to Mimi Alet. The West Valley expressed their gratitude toward Mimi for her diligent work and dedication toward the animals.

- B. Approval of the Minutes for Meeting of February 14, 2017. *(heard after item 6.B)*

**Commissioner Gross** made a motion to approve the minutes.

**Commissioner Wolfson** seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Public Comment:  
None

### 4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER *(heard after item 1.1)*

**GM Barnette** discussed the following:

General Manager Barnette mentioned that today is Spay and Neuter Day. The Department is aware of concerns from individuals regarding the 3 month pilot program, drop age for Spay/Neuter and adoption for kittens to six weeks/1.5 pounds.

- General Services Building Maintenance groups have been working diligently at our East Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic restoring the building for its upcoming new tenants, Western Medical University. Western Medical University will soon be providing spay and neuter services to both the Department and members of its community. The contract is in its final stages of negotiation and will be submitted to City Council and the Mayor for approval.
- AGM Dedeaux conducted a walk thru with General Services Building Maintenance to discuss new signage for our facilities. The new signage will display caution asking the public to keep their hands out of the kennels.
- AGM Dedeaux met with ITA to discuss various options on 2- way radios.
- On February 23rd, a pre-bidders conference was held at the Jefferson Park/Old South Los Angeles Animal Shelter. The conference was held in

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order to allow prospective bidders to tour the facility as well as ask questions regarding the RFP process. There were three prospective bidders in attendance. We look forward to receiving creative proposals on how to deliver services to the South Los Angeles community.

- General Services Building Maintenance groups have been working diligently at our East Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic restoring the building for its upcoming new tenants, Western Medical University. Western Medical University will soon be providing spay and neuter services to both the Department and members of its community. The contract is in its final stages of negotiation and will be submitted to City Council and the Mayor for approval.
- AGM Dedeaux met with RD Systems at our East Valley, North Central and Chesterfield Square locations to discuss the installation of cameras in the outdoor kennel area. These cameras will be used to monitor activity occurring within the kennel area and will provide aid in investigations as necessary in the future for potential lawsuits.
- Los Angeles Animal Services has been invited to participate in a Foster Apprenticeship program at the Austin Animal Shelter. The program includes several agencies and their foster coordinators to discuss best practices and strategies for increasing fosters for adult dogs. The program is underwritten by Maddie's Fund and Animal Care Technician Tiffani Hamilton will be representing Los Angeles Animal Services in Austin, TX next month.
- On February 12, 2017 the North Central Animal Care and Control Center's swing Officer in Charge received a call for an injured Bobcat at Rogers State Park and Sunset Blvd. Animal Control Officer Alarcon responded to the call and impounded a Bobcat with no visible injuries. The Bobcat did appear weak and in need of rehabilitation. After a few phone calls Camarillo Wildlife was willing to pick up the Bobcat from the West Valley Animal Care and Control Center. The Bobcat was picked up by Camarillo Wildlife personal and is now is being rehabbed.
- The Department received several calls from filming and production companies to do work at our shelters. Four topics: 1. Animal Plant-Rescue Dogs to Super Dogs. 2. Pet Smart Commercial 3. Movie-Pillow Talk. 4. Last Chance for Animals.
- A new series, "Rescue Dog to Super Dog" will be selecting dogs from our shelters to be trained to assist persons with disabilities, the dogs will filmed at the shelters when selected and again once trained and adopted by a family. Animal Planet is producing this project.
- General Services Building Maintenance Division is working with on leaks at shelters.

- Problems with phones continue. The Department is working with ITA & Frontier.
- General Services Building Maintenance Division has started conducting a preventive maintenance inspection on the guillotine doors at all six animal shelters.
- AGM Dedeaux met with ITA to discuss various options for the use of two way radios on the City's frequency in our kennels amongst the Animal Care Technicians. This is one of many safety options the Department is looking into that will aid in providing a safer working environment for its Animal Care Technicians.
- The Department's Specialized Mobile Animal Rescue Team (SMART) finished 2016 with 161 Rescue Activations and a total of 127 animals', domestic and Wildlife, lives rescued. A total of 11 rescues were covered by the media and aired on Local Television and 9 of the rescues were covered by multiple Web media sites.
- Four major Production Companies were interested in filming a SMART Pilot for "Animal Planet TV". Of the four, one is in talks to start filming this year. In addition, a Japanese film crew from Japan made its way to Los Angeles to film a special segment for Japanese television that featured SMART
- An Animal Rescue team from Colorado Humane Society Pikes Peak Region sent a representative to train with SMART in late December. The training consisted of Ascending and reaching animals at heights. Three days after the training, the Colorado Humane Animal Rescue Team performed a successful rescue using the techniques learned from SMART. And even with little to no rain, SMART performed 13 water rescues in which 7 required the use of inflatable boats and specialized dry suits.

Public Comment:

**Whitney Smith:** Mentioned that the ASPCA recommends spay/neuter for kittens at 2 lbs.

**Paul Darrigo:** Mentioned that cats need their hormones to develop; asked how the Department is going to distribute flyers.

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Talked about early spay/neuter; no early than two months; need to think of all aspects; will provide a letter from Dr. Mackey.

**Gail Raff:** Asked how many outside facilities will spay/ neuter; many cats come back to system that are not spay/neuter. Old cats are not being adopted; Department needs to change focus on older cats.

**Martha Chaffin:** Recommends Department to do additional research before implementing pilot program on spay/neuter before 6 weeks.

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**James Hart:** Suggested a debate with outside experts on subject of spay/neuter cats at 1.5 lbs/ 6 weeks; willing to pay for cost.

**Andrew S. Brown:** Mentioned the Department has a broken system; need to foster animals properly with adopters.

**Kathie Fritzen:** Asked about the status of raising number of pets from three to five.

**5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** *(heard after item 3.B.)*

**Commissioner Zaft:** Passed

**Commissioner Gross:** Asked the Department to investigate phone issues and provide a report with recommendations.

**Commissioner Finsten:** As a former City employee promotes 311; curious about the Department's association with 311.

**Commissioner Wolfson:** Thanked the Department for moving forward with RFP Kiosks in shelters; mentioned waiting to hear recommendations from the Department on Pet Guardianship on applications; asked about General Manager to waiving adoption fees to allow Best Friends to promote adoption events; suggested discussion on expansion with Intervention Program; suggested to explore uniform standards for care of bunnies at shelters; waiting to hear on streamlining gift process for large donations.

**Commissioner Garcia:** Recommended staff or volunteers to verify Department listed phone numbers; asked about the reimbursement program for the remaining shelters.

Public Comment:

**Whitney Smith:** Cannot get through on the phones; tethering is illegal and Officers need to distribute citations; The Agnes Wood donation is still in account; Department is in violation.

**Gale Raff:** Talked about redemption fees; cats are dumped and people do not know there is a fee to surrender an animal.

**Carrie Armstrong:** Talked about the intervention program; all paperwork is moving forward; in communication with the Department.

**6. Board Reports**

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A. Staff Update on Shelter Intervention Program. *(heard after item 5)*

**GM Barnette** provided an update on Shelter Intervention Program. The Board authorized the use of \$40,000 from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to support a pilot program to offer redemption fee reimbursements to shelter intervention program that assist Los Angeles citizens with redeeming their companion animals from our shelters. Reimbursements to the participants have come slowly. A request was submitted in the budget for a zero fee or a donation when surrendering an animal. This has been approved by the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee (PAW) and City Council. **Commissioner Gross** asked about the pending amounts on redemption fees. **GM Barnette** responded redemption fees are of clients that need payment. **Commissioner Wolfson** praised the program. **Commissioner Zaft** asked which rescue group is expanding to East Valley. **GM Barnette** responded The Rescue Train.

Public Comment:  
None

B. Presentation on Prevention Through Education and the Benchmark Animal Rehabilitative Curriculum (B.A.R.C.) Program. ; A New Solution for Common Issues. Guest Speaker: Deborah Knaan, Executive Director, Susie Spector Foundation. *(heard after item 4)*

Debbie Knaan, Executive Director, Susie Spector Foundation presented and demonstrated a video on Benchmark Animal Rehabilitative Curriculum (B.A.R.C) course. B.A.R.C. is an online cruelty prevention course which utilizes videos, text, audio and articles. It is informative and engaging. Students can download their progress and certificate of completion. B.A.R.C. covers a broad range of topics such as:

- I. Do Animals Think and Feel?
- II. Animal Cruelty
- III. Animals Basic Needs
- IV. Responsible Pet Ownership
- V. Animal Ownership.
- VI. Giving up an Animal

Ms. Knaan mentioned there is a section on spay/neuter, grooming and barking dogs. The classes are on a referral basis by Animal Control Officers. **Commissioner Zaft** mentioned in past these offenses was not taken seriously in law enforcement; B.A.R.C. has taken additional steps in a long term approach to deal with offenders. **Commissioner Wolfson** appreciates that the Department have become a model for the non animal rights and human rights community; asked if this program has been received to replicate with people on people violence. This is so well designed with care and respect. Ms. Knaan mentioned this type of course

would be perfect to cover various issues. People are lacking the understanding and empathy; animals do feel pain. **Commissioner Gross** mentioned this is an innovated approach; asked how long the course is. The course provides an alternative and supplement to dealing with hearing and appeal cases; asked for about possible abbreviated version for or shelters. **Commissioner Zaft** mentioned that a 10 hour course might be burdensome on a barking dog case. Ms. Knaan responded that certain modules can be isolated however recommends taking the entire course. The program was launched 3 months ago; implemented for Department of Animals Services. **Commissioner Finsten** asked how results will be measured. Ms. Knaan responded there is a before and after test to measure a person's knowledge; a questioner on empathy; recording statistics; a five question survey. **Commissioner Garcia** asked how many times a person can take the course. Ms. Knaan responded they can take it more than once there is no limitation. **Commissioner Zaft** asked the cost of the course and who pays; asked if the course will be in Spanish. Ms. Knaan responded the offender pays for the course; cost is \$199; course will be translated in Spanish.

Public Comment:

**Phyllis Daugherty:** Thanked Debbie Knaan; complemented B.A.R.C; this is a wonderful program;

**Marla Tauscher:** Expressed that B.A.R.C is worth exploring and has value. The Department has bigger issues; stop targeting people based on personal animosities; asked if the Department staff will take the course; there is animal cruelty in the Department; this needs to be addressed.

**Gale Raff:** It's 2017 and time for this program; we need education; we need to provide hand outs to educate potential adopters.

**Andrew Brown:** This a great program; however it only applies to people who already offended. A cheaper version and condense version would be helpful.

**Martha Chaffin:** Complemented B.A.R.C program; echoed Gale Raff and Andrew Brown on their comments; thanked the Department for assisting on a barking dog issue.

**Pat Kramer:** Would love to see B. A. R. C implemented; suggested to have the course in Armenian.

**Dana Stangel:** The program sounds amazing; suggested for high school students; kids can influence the program.

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## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Wolfson** made a motion to adjourn the meeting in solidarity with the Jewish families around the country that are being threatened. **Commissioner Garcia** seconded the motion and was approved by a vote of 5 - 0.

Meeting ended at 9:41 p.m.

**BOARD OF  
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COMMISSIONERS**

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**LOUIS P. DEDEAUX**  
INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**MEETING DATE:** March 14, 2017

**PREPARED BY:** Louis Dedeaux

**REPORT DATE:** March 9, 2017

**TITLE:** Assistant General Manager

**SUBJECT: REQUEST TO APPROVE THE USE OF ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST FUND FOR  
SHELTER SAFETY EQUIPMENT.**

**BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:**

1. APPROVE the use of Animal Welfare Trust Funds for Shelter Safety Equipment in the amount of \$148,439, for the purchase of the following items as further described in the report:

- Transfer Cages in the amount of \$4,280
- Small Animal Barrier Boards in the amount of \$2,480
- Large Animal Barrier Boards in the amount of \$3,312
- Cat Dens for under socialized cats in the amount of \$1,744
- Snappy snares in the amount of \$560
- EZ Nabbers in the amount of \$3,320
- Personal safety horns in the amount of \$1,315
- Military grade radios \$95,000
- Trifecta Tripod \$9,428
- New Signage \$3,000
- Additional Kennel Lighting at North Central \$24,000

**SUMMARY:**

In light of the recent dog attack on one of our Animal Care Technicians the Department is seeking various types of safety equipment in an effort to increase staff and public health and safety.

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**Transfer Cages**

The current animal transfer cages are worn and are in need of replacement. These cages are used to safely transport small animals that may be sick, injured and/or aggressive.

**Large and Small Barrier Boards**

Barrier boards provide a temporary protective barrier between an animal and the employee. These boards are light enough that they can be used for everyday entry into a kennel and/or cage so that the employee can perform necessary functions in a safe manner.

**Molded Cat Dens**

These dens provide a safe haven for cats that are under socialized while allowing the employee to safely contain the animal in order to clean the cage and/or transport the animal to district medical division when necessary.

**Snappy Snare**

Snappy Snare is an easy to use time saver for capturing elusive/frightened animals. This device is flexible and allows employees to safely capture small animals in tight spaces.

**EZ Nabbers**

The current EZ Nabbers are worn and/or broken and are in need of replacement. EZ Nabbers provide a safe and humane way to handle small animals without physically handling the animal. Intramuscular injections of tranquilizers, anesthetics and vaccines can all be given through the netting on this device. Animals can also be safely transferred from one cage to another without injury or stress to the animal or staff.

**Personal Air Safety Horns**

Personal air safety horns are currently be used in playgroups to help deter and/or prevent potential dog fights and attacks. The sound emitted from these horns will often momentarily interrupt undesired or dangerous behavior.

**Military Grade Radios**

The M/A-Com P7100IP radios are a military grade radio that is compatible with the radios currently being used by the Departments Animal Control Officers. These radios are equipped with a panic button, operate on the City's radio frequencies, come with a two year warranty and ITA will conduct any and all repairs and programming for the life of the radio; further, ITA will add six additional channels to the Departments allotment which will allow each district to function daily operations on its own frequency.

The use of this type of radio in the kennel will allow the ACT's to clearly communicate with one another without interruption and from one end of the city to the other when necessary. These radios will provide clear communication between ACT's and ACO's during all work shifts both in the shelter, in the field and in the event of an emergency and/or disaster. They will also allow all shelters on the swing and graveyard shift to clearly communicate citywide on one channel allowing more listeners with a working knowledge and understanding of the kennel environment to aid in sending some form of help and/or assistance to employee in need.

**Tripod (SMART)**

The current large animal tripod is not designed or rated for raising animals over 500 lbs. The steel construction bends or bows causing stress. The results can be catastrophic if the pipes become compromised and/or collapse. There is a large safety concern for the animals,

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
SUBJECT: Request to Approve the use of Animal Welfare Trust Fund for Shelter Safety  
Equipment

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personnel and bystanders. The new large animal tripod (Trifecta) is built to raise large equine and/or other animals weighing 500 – 2000 lbs and has the capability to raise these animals from recumbent positions and/or over fences, walls or other obstacles when a crane is not accessible.

**New Kennel Signage**

Dogs in a kennel environment often exhibit barrier aggression and become over excited or stimulated and may snap out of frustration. To ensure public safety we would like to add new signage to clearly advise the public of the potential aggressive behavior. Adding signage will caution the public not to put finders in cages.

**Additional Kennel Lighting for North Central**

Our North Central facility currently experiences safety issues in the newer outdoor kennel area due to limited lighting in the kennel. In order to provide a safer working environment the Department met with General Services and was provided an alternative lighting set up. This new set up will provide more efficient lighting throughout the kennel area allowing staff to provide optimal care for animals at night, while creating a safer environment for the staff and animals.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no impact to the General Fund.

Approved:

Brenda Barnette

*Brenda Barnette, General Manager*

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
_____ Passed with noted modifications	Continued _____
_____ Tabled	New Date _____

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GENERAL MANAGER

**DANA H. BROWN**  
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**LOUIS P. DEDEAUX**  
INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**MEETING DATE:** March 14, 2017

**PREPARED BY:** Dana Brown

**REPORT DATE:** March 9, 2017

**TITLE:** Assistant General Manager

**SUBJECT:** STAFF REPORT ON KENNEL INVENTORY OF DOGS CURRENTLY  
IMPOUNDED AS EVIDENCE

**BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:**

- RECEIVE AND FILE this report.

**SUMMARY:**

The Los Angeles Municipal Code contains a number of provisions authorizing the impoundment of animals into City shelters. In all cases, impounded animals are cared for by professional animal care staff for the duration of their stay with the intent of either returning them to their owners or finding loving, forever homes for each of them.

The animals impounded pending possible dangerous animal hearings, humane investigations, and police holds are all described as "evidence animals" and are not made available. The term "evidence" is used to denote that these animals are in some form of a legal process and are unavailable for adoption or placement pending the outcome of that process.

**POSSIBLE DANGEROUS ANIMALS:**

Pursuant to the provisions of LAMC Section 53.34.2(a), the Department is authorized to summarily and immediately impound a dog or other animal where there is evidence it has attacked, bitten or injured any human being or other animal pending any court or dog license or animal permit revocation proceeding arising from the attack, bite or injury. When such an impound occurs, these animals go through an administrative hearing process to determine if they will be allowed to return to the homes from which they were seized. The process for these hearings can be lengthy depending upon the number of hearings filed, complexity of cases, etc. Likewise, there is an appeals process that follows the actual hearing that could result in longer

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Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
SUBJECT: Staff Report on Kennel Inventory of Dogs Currently Impounded as Evidence

impound periods. Below is a list of the 34 evidence dogs that are currently impounded Citywide and are in some stage of the hearings process.

ANIMAL ID#	INTAKE TYPE	INTAKE DATE	SEX	ANIMAL TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SHELTER
1 A1647443	PDA	08/05/16	S	DOG	1 GRAY / WHITE STAFFORDSHIRE	W VALLEY
2 A1443118	PDA	08/29/16	S	DOG	1 WHITE / BROWN ST BERNARD RGH	W VALLEY
3 A1664337	PDA	10/25/16	M	DOG	1 BROWN / WHITE AM PIT BULL TER MIX	HARBOR
4 A1507598	PDA	10/29/16	N	DOG	1 TAN / WHITE BELG MALINOIS MIX	HARBOR
5 A1592388	PDA	11/04/16	N	DOG	1 BLUE MERLE / BLACK AUST CATTLE DOG	S LA
6 A1590412	PDA	11/16/16	N	DOG	1 TAN / WHITE PIT BULL MIX	HARBOR
8 A1546286	PDA	12/07/16	N	DOG	1 TAN / WHITE PIT BULL	N CENTRA
9 A1546287	PDA	12/07/16	N	DOG	1 TAN PIT BULL	N CENTRA
10 A1672496	PDA	12/14/16	M	DOG	1 GRAY / WHITE BOXER / PIT BULL	N CENTRA
11 A1672497	PDA	12/14/16	S	DOG	1 BLACK LABRADOR RETR MIX	N CENTRA
12 A1672491	PDA	12/14/16	F	DOG	1 BLACK LABRADOR RETR MIX	N CENTRA
13 A1672498	PDA	12/14/16	S	DOG	1 BLACK LABRADOR RETR MIX	N CENTRA
14 A1673270	PDA	12/19/16	M	DOG	1 BLACK / TAN GERM SHEPHERD	W VALLEY
15 A1673273	PDA	12/19/16	M	DOG	1 BLACK / BROWN ROTTWEILER	W VALLEY
16 A1485217	PDA	12/26/16	S	DOG	1 BLACK GREAT DANE	W VALLEY
17 A1675835	PDA	01/08/17	S	DOG	1 BROWN / WHITE PIT BULL MIX	S LA
18 A1675834	PDA	01/08/17	N	DOG	1 BLACK / WHITE LABRADOR RETR / PIT BULL	S LA
19 A1676462	PDA	01/13/17	M	DOG	1 WHITE / BLACK AMERICAN STAFF	E VALLEY
20 A1677373	PDA	01/18/17	N	DOG	1 GRAY / WHITE PIT BULL	E VALLEY
21 A1191555	PDA	01/20/17	N	DOG	1 YELLOW PIT BULL	W VALLEY
22 A1590719	PDA	01/26/17	S	DOG	1 BLACK / WHITE AMERICAN STAFF	N CENTRA
23 A1678601	PDA	01/27/17	F	DOG	1 BROWN / WHITE PIT BULL	S LA
24 A1678600	PDA	01/27/17	M	DOG	1 TAN / WHITE PIT BULL	S LA
25 A1678699	PDA	01/27/17	F	DOG	1 WHITE ENG BULLDOG	W VALLEY
26 A1679513	PDA	02/02/17	M	DOG	1 RED / WHITE STAFFORDSHIRE	N CENTRA
27 A1679514	PDA	02/02/17	M	DOG	1 GRAY / WHITE STAFFORDSHIRE	N CENTRA
28 A1680580	PDA	02/10/17	M	DOG	1 WHITE / BLACK SIBERIAN HUSKY	S LA
29 A1493747	PDA	02/13/17	S	DOG	1 BLACK / WHITE PIT BULL	HARBOR
30 A1683142	PDA	02/26/17	F	DOG	1 WHITE / GRAY PIT BULL	S LA
31 A1650430	PDA	03/03/17	F	DOG	1 BLACK LABRADOR RETR MIX	W VALLEY
32 A1666004	PDA	03/06/17	S	DOG	1 TAN / BLACK MASTIFF / PIT BULL	N CENTRA
33 A1666001	PDA	03/06/17	N	DOG	1 BR BRINDLE / GRAY MASTIFF / PIT BULL	N CENTRA
34 A1684714	PDA	03/07/17	N	DOG	1 WHITE / BLACK SIBERIAN HUSKY	W VALLEY

## HUMANE INVESTIGATIONS:

Animals may also be seized based on sub-standard living conditions and poor standard of care. In some cases, criminal investigations are conducted to determine if criminal negligence is found in the care of the affected animals. In those cases, animals may be seized and held in the shelter pending the outcome of those investigations. Below is a list of the 19 evidence animals that are impounded Citywide pending the outcome of a humane investigation.

ANIMAL ID#	INTAKE TYPE	INTAKE DATE	SEX	ANIMAL TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SHELTER
1 A1387262	HUMANE	08/18/16	N	DOG	1 GRAY / WHITE AM PIT BULL TER MIX	HARBOR
2 A1672745	HUMANE	12/15/16	S	DOG	1 RED / WHITE AUST SHEPHERD MIX	S LA
3 A1464287	HUMANE	02/03/17	N	DOG	1 RED / WHITE SIBERIAN HUSKY	HARBOR
4 A1470956	HUMANE	02/03/17	N	DOG	1 WHITE / BLACK SIBERIAN HUSKY	HARBOR
5 A1681209	HUMANE	02/14/17	F	DOG	1 BROWN / WHITE PIT BULL	E VALLEY
6 A1681210	HUMANE	02/14/17	M	DOG	1 BLACK / WHITE PIT BULL	E VALLEY
7 A1682153	HUMANE	02/21/17	F	DOG	1 TRICOLOR CHIHUAHUA SH MIX	N CENTRA
8 A1682154	HUMANE	02/21/17	M	DOG	1 TAN CHIHUAHUA LH MIX	N CENTRA
9 A1004892	HUMANE	02/21/17	F	DOG	1 BROWN JINDO	W VALLEY
10 A1682474	HUMANE	02/22/17	F	DOG	1 FAWN PIT BULL	N CENTRA
11 A1682845	HUMANE	02/24/17	M	DOG	1 CHOCOLATE / TAN ENG COCKER SPAN	W VALLEY
12 A1682848	HUMANE	02/24/17	M	DOG	1 BLACK / TAN ENG COCKER SPAN	W VALLEY
13 A1682839	HUMANE	02/24/17	F	DOG	1 CHOCOLATE / TAN ENG COCKER SPAN	W VALLEY
14 A1682843	HUMANE	02/24/17	F	DOG	1 BROWN / WHITE ENG COCKER SPAN	W VALLEY
15 A1684098	HUMANE	03/02/17	M	DOG	1 BROWN / WHITE CHIHUAHUA SH	E VALLEY
16 A1684100	HUMANE	03/02/17	M	DOG	1 WHITE / BROWN CHIHUAHUA SH	E VALLEY
17 A1683902	HUMANE	03/02/17	M	DOG	1 BLACK / TAN GERM SHEPHERD	W VALLEY
18 A1683903	HUMANE	03/02/17	M	DOG	1 TAN / BLACK GERM SHEPHERD	W VALLEY
19 A1683904	HUMANE	03/02/17	F	DOG	1 BLACK / WHITE GERM SHEPHERD MIX	W VALLEY

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
SUBJECT: Staff Report on Kennel Inventory of Dogs Currently Impounded as Evidence

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**POLICE HOLDS:**

The last type of evidence animals that are impounded by the Department are those that are requested by the police. In some cases, local law enforcement request that an animal be impounded and held pending police investigative activities. These holds are usually short term and we cooperate with law enforcement to house and care for these animals until they can be returned to their owners or other related party. Below is a list of the two police hold evidence animals currently being house at a city shelter.

	ANIMAL ID#	INTAKE TYPE	INTAKE DATE	SEX	ANIMAL TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SHELTER
1	A1629829	POLICE	02/28/17	S	DOG	1 TAN / WHITE PIT BULL	E VALLEY
2	A1531436	POLICE	03/07/17	F	DOG	1 BLACK / WHITE STAFFORDSHIRE MIX	W VALLEY

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact of housing and providing care for evidence animals fluctuates depending upon the number and type of holds we encounter. It should be noted, however, that redemption fees are charged to those dog owners whose animals are impounded pending a PDA hearing. Likewise, lien fees are assessed upon redemption of humane investigation impounds.

Approved:

Brenda Barnette

Brenda Barnette, General Manager

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**BOARD ACTION:**

_____ Passed	Disapproved _____
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_____ Tabled	New Date _____



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**BRENDA F. BARNETTE**  
GENERAL MANAGER

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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**LOUIS P. DEDEAUX**  
INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**MEETING DATE:** March 14, 2017

**PREPARED BY:** Dana Brown

**REPORT DATE:** March 9, 2017

**TITLE:** Assistant General Manager

**SUBJECT:** STAFF REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING BACKLOG

**BOARD ACTIONS RECOMMENDED:**

- RECEIVE AND FILE this report.

**SUMMARY:**

Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 53.18.5, an administrative hearing must be held for barking dog and dangerous animal cases to determine license revocation, terms and conditions for ownership and/or dangerous animal declarations. Cases are filed by supervisors in each district and, in some cases, animals are impounded pending the outcome of the hearing. Impounds are determined by factors such as ability to confine, severity of attack, and past aggressive history shown by the animal.

In addition to providing authorization for the initial impoundment, the LAMC also provides guidelines for the administrative hearings process. Based on those guidelines, in the cases that involve impounded animals the Department has seven days from the date of impoundment to serve the dog owner with a Notice of Hearing. As a result, impounded animals are prioritized ahead of non-impounds. Also of importance are the barking dog cases. While these are not bound by code to be handled within a particular time period, the department has prioritized them as many times these cases involve large numbers of neighbors and significant contention. Currently, there is no significant backlog in the scheduling of either impound or barking dog hearings.

With the large number of impounds, non-impounds have developed a significant backlog. As of February 17, 2017, there were 449 non-impound cases waiting to be heard. This backlog has accumulated over time and includes incidents filed as far back as December 2015. We have found that in many cases, by the time the case is scheduled for hearing, the circumstances

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surrounding the incident have changed significantly. For example, the animal in question may be deceased, the witnesses are no longer interested in continuing in the process or the dog owners may have relocated themselves and the dog out of the City of Los Angeles. Of greatest concern in these cases are the instances where a non-impound case waits for hearing and in the interim the animal is involved in a more serious incident.

Currently, the Department handles administrative hearings internally using two Sr. Animal Control Officer II's acting as Hearing Examiners. This practice is costly to the department in a number of ways including staff time, public frustration at the time between the incident and the hearing, and time between the hearing and appeal if an appeal is granted. We believe that contracting this process would be financially prudent for the Department, provide better customer service for the public and allow the current hearings staff to return to field operations. There is also some concern of public perception related to the integrity of the recommendations. As Department employees, the perception might be toward a favorable decision for the Department. While the Department specifically trains the Hearing Officers on fairness, transparency, and recommendations supported by the LAMC, the City Attorney has advised that hearing officers who are not in the chain of command for the field and who are not employed and supervised by the Department would be a more prudent practice based on past legal decisions in similar cases. Based on all of this, the Department has requested in the FY18 budget to have this service contracted out of the Department. The budget request is still in the approval process and it is hopeful that funds are provided for this request. Even after financial support is given, the Department will have to work closely with the affected labor organization to ensure that we are working together on these changes. City Personnel is already involved in working with labor.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The administrative hearing process is currently performed by two Senior Animal Control Officer II positions at a total cost of \$375,128. The Department is proposing to contract out for administrative hearing services.

Chameleon, the Department's internal database, shows that the average length of stay for hearings related impounds is 96.03 days while the average length of stay for non-hearings related impounds is 15.775 days. The Department believes that the average length of stay for hearings related impounds can be reduced to the 30 day range through contracting out for administrative hearing services. This reduction in length of stay translates into a savings of \$136,775 annually in animal care costs

Approved:

Brenda Barnette

Brenda Barnette, General Manager

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners  
SUBJECT: Staff Report on Administrative Hearing Backlog

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**BOARD ACTION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Passed

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Passed with noted modifications

Continued \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Tabled

New Date \_\_\_\_\_