



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
9:30 A.M.

Dial (669) 900-6833 to Join the Meeting and use Webinar ID No. 914 8543 9616 and then Press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID.

LARRY GROSS
President

OLIVIA E. GARCÍA
Vice-President

JILL COHEN
ALISA FINSTEN
JOSE SANDOVAL

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Board of Animal Services Commission meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically and using Zoom software.

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

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

Members of the public who wish to offer public comment to the Board of Animal Services Commission should call (669) 900-6833 and use Webinar ID No. 914 8543 9616 and then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 201069 WLA

Appellant: John Petersen

West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lt. Spariosu

Complaining Witness: Matthew Lee

II. 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)

Note: The Brown Act prohibits the Board and staff from discussing a 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 Minutes for the Meeting of January 26, 2021 (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Phone Report Update (Information Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., February 23, 2021

AGENDAS - The Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) meets regularly every second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month at 9:30 A.M. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, the Board will meet telephonically and using Zoom software in conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020). 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, 6th Floor, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Board Agendas may also be viewed on the 2nd 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 <https://www.laanimalservices.com/about-us-2/commission/#three>

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. Each speaker will be granted a maximum of two minutes and the presiding officer reserves the ability to extend or limit the time depending on the circumstances of the meeting.

Notice to Paid Representatives. If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code §§ 48.01 *et seq.* More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

Time Limit for Speakers. Speakers addressing the Board will be limited to one (1) minute of speaking time for each agenda item except during the general public comment period, which is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker (For certain agenda items, speakers will have two (2) minutes each).

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**

LARRY GROSS
PRESIDENT

OLIVIA E. GARCIA
VICE PRESIDENT

COMMISSIONERS

JILL COHEN

ALISA FINSTEN

JOSE SANDOVAL

City of Los Angeles

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF
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INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING

To Be Held: Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

This hearing will be held telephonically. To appear, please follow the instructions below.

Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.18(q)(4) this serves as formal notice to the following parties and witnesses of an appeal hearing before the Board of Animal Services Commissioners in the case listed below:

- 1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 201069 WLA**
Appellant: John Petersen
West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lt. Spariosu
Complaining Witness: Matthew Lee

Due to concerns over COVID-19, this appeal hearing will be held telephonically. To appear at the hearing, DIAL (669) 900-6833, ENTER Webinar ID No. 914 8543 9616, and then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID.

If you have any questions or need further assistance with your telephonic appearance, please contact the Department at (213) 482-9558.

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 hearing.

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 to the hearing 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. This hearing will not be rescheduled, except for good cause.

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

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com



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



**MINUTES
TUESDAY, January 26, 2021 at 9:30 AM**

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

Audio MP-3 Recording is available at www.laanimalservices.com

Larry Gross, President
Olivia E. García, Vice President
Jill Cohen
Alisa Finsten
Jose Sandoval

Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m. Commissioners present were Gross, García, Cohen, Finsten, and Sandoval. Also present from Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) was General Manager (GM) Brenda Barnette, Assistant General Manager (AGM) Tammy Watson, Interim Assistant General Manager (AGM) Annette Ramirez, Board Secretary Francine Acuña, and Deputy City Attorney Steve Houchin.

Commissioner Gross opened the meeting, introduced staff, provided an overview of the meeting agenda, and provided instructions to the public on how to make public comments for this virtual meeting.

I. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment:
None

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. Approval of the Minutes for Meeting of January 12, 2021.

Commissioner Cohen moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 12, 2021.

Commissioner Sandoval seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Cohen, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Public Comment:
None

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Brenda Barnette discussed the following:

- Introduced the Department's new ROSE (Recognition of Outstanding Staff Effort) weekly recognition of staff members who have gone above and beyond in the performance of their work. Any supervisor may nominate any staff member for recognition.
- Pet Food Pantry was held on January 25. Chesterfield Square had a total of 79 appointments; 26 were no-shows, 8 walk-ups, and a total of 210 pets served. East Valley had 50 appointments; 13 were no-shows, 11 walk-ups, and a total of 150 pets served. There were a total of 360 pets served.
- The pet food pantry will be open on a weekly basis beginning February 7.
- 41 employees have tested positive since the beginning of Covid.
- Zoom roundtable discussions were introduced to HASS.
- Fundraising for spay/neuter continues with a \$25,000 matching grant, a \$50,000 grant from ASPCA for cats only, and we are coming up with additional ways to raise money for the spay/neuter fund.
- White House has welcomed the first rescue dog and will also adopt a rescue cat.
- The Department received a big donation of beds, blankets, and kongs for our enrichment program from Debbie Bloom "I Stand With My Pack and Balooja's Foundation".
- Spoke about a call that was received at the East Valley Animal Services Center for a cat stuck in a wall. One of our officers assessed the situation; then used his Leatherman tool to remove the cabinet's kick plate. He reached in and safely freed the cat. The cat's owner watched the entire rescue via FaceTime, from China.
- Eagle Scout Troop 139 delivered a big completed project to the East Valley Animal Services Center of wood hideaway boxes for our rabbits.
- 12-hour shifts have been extended for another six weeks.
- **Commissioner Cohen** asked the Department to provide the names of the ROSE recipients in future Commission meetings.
- **Commissioner Finsten** asked about the potential layoffs for the Department. **AGM Tammy Watson** stated we will not experience any layoffs for this fiscal year. The City has negotiated an amendment to the MOU contracts with our Labor partners that will eliminate furloughs. This contract amendment will include an additional two days of unpaid days for this fiscal year.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Jeff Mausner** - stated that ten Neighborhood Councils have filed Community Impact Statements opposing the first LAAS draft proposal regarding the West Valley shelter.
- **Gail Raff** - stated that work needs to be done to network the cats from South LA.

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Gross:

- Monthly Telephone Update on next agenda.
- Announced changes to the PAAW Committee. Councilmembers Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Mike Bonin are now overseeing the PAAW committee along with Councilmember Paul Koretz. **AGM Tammy Watson** added that the committee name has been changed to Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare (PAAW).
- Mayor Garcetti held a zoom meeting for all Commissioners in the City. Commissioner Gross asked a question in regards to evictions and the concern about the shelters being overrun with people having to surrender their pets. Commissioner Sandoval raised the issue of concern in regards to spay/neuter funding.

Commissioner Cohen:

- None.

Commissioner Finsten:

- None.

Commissioner García:

- None.

Commissioner Sandoval:

- None.

Public Comment:

None

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. FY 20-21 2nd Quarter Financial Reports (Information Item)

Senior Management Analyst Catherine Chico provided an update on the Department's FY 20-21 2nd Quarter financial reports.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Gail Raff** - asked if we have reached out to our contractors to verify if they are accepting the spay/neuter vouchers.

B. 2020 Los Angeles Animal Services Public Relations Highlights (Information Item)

Public Information Director Agnes Sibal provided an update on the Department's Public Relations highlights for 2020.

Public Comment:
None

C. Authorize a Registration Fee for Maintaining more than Three Cats up to Five (Action Item)

GM Brenda Barnette requested authorization to implement a registration fee for maintaining more than Three Cats up to Five.

Commissioner Sandoval moved to authorize a Registration Fee for Maintaining more than Three Cats up to Five.

Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Cohen, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Gail Raff** - stated it is mandatory for dogs to have licenses because of rabies.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.