



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
9:30 A.M.

Dial (669) 900-6833 to Join the Meeting and use Webinar ID No. 958 9119 9016 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. 958 9119 9016 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. 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 February 9, 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. Acceptance of a \$30,000 Donation from The Annenberg Foundation into the Animal Sterilization Fund for Charitable Purposes of the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., March 9, 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
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**



**MINUTES
TUESDAY, February 9, 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 9:33 a.m. Commissioners present were Gross, García, 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 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. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 201069 WLA

Appellant: John Petersen

West Los Angeles Animal Services Center: Lt. Spariosu

Complaining Witness: Matthew Lee

The Board discussed the merits of the appeal, the evidence provided to the Hearing Examiner, and the grounds supporting the General Manager's determination. The Board found that the evidence supports the decision of the General Manager's determination.

Commissioner Gross made a motion to uphold the decision of the General Manager.

Commissioner Sandoval seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

II. REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was made by:

- **Jeff Mausner** - stated that eleven neighborhood councils have filed community impact statements opposing the draft proposal for West Valley and demands that the West Valley shelter reopen as a full service municipal shelter.
- **Gail Raff** - opposes the draft proposal for West Valley and suggested a commission meeting be held in the evening for those who are unable to participate during the day.
- **Sharon Brewer** - asked if the Department plans on opening North Central, spoke about the draft proposal for West Valley, and asked when Foxy and the Hounds will be reinstated.

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 26, 2021.

Commissioner Finsten moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of January 26, 2021.

Commissioner Sandoval seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

Public Comment:
None

4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Brenda Barnette discussed the following:

- Pet Food Pantry will now be open Sunday afternoons on a weekly basis.
- Pet Food Pantry was held on February 7; 173 pets were served at Chesterfield Square and 166 pets were served at East Valley for a total of 339 pets served.
- Volunteers are assisting with roundtable discussions; Rabbit Roundtable, Doggy Dialogue, and Cat Chat.
- Pet Resource Guide (English/Spanish) is being distributed to Neighborhood Councils and Council offices.
- Matching \$25,000 spay/neuter grant for the mobile spay/neuter vans. At this point we have raised a total of \$8,880.25.
- We are continuing to work on reopening North Central and West Valley shelters.
- 42 employees who have tested positive for COVID have now recovered and returned to work.
- Shelters are continuing to operate by appointment only and dog licenses will be available online.
- **Commissioner Sandoval** asked if the Department has any plans to assist those who do not have access to computers or the internet. **GM Barnette** stated we are looking into possibly getting a kiosk at the shelters. **District Supervisor Gerald Hill** added that licenses are still available by mail.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Diana Mendoza** - asked if the Zoom roundtables are only available for foster/adopters, asked how much longer will the spay/neuter matching grant go on for, and asked about the Pet Food Pantry telephone number.
- **Gail Raff** - asked about funding for the mobile spay/neuter vans and scheduling of adoption appointments.

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Gross:

- None

Commissioner Cohen:

- None

Commissioner Finsten:

- Requested that Budget Updates be added to the GM's Oral Report.

Commissioner García:

- None

Commissioner Sandoval:

- None

Public Comment:
None

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Phone Report Update (Information Item)

District Supervisor Gerald Hill provided an update on the Department's phone system.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Sharon Brewer** - asked if there was one general telephone number for calling into the shelter and if there are options to direct a call for a specific question.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

**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

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BRENDA F. BARNETTE
GENERAL MANAGER

TAMMY WATSON
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Administration

ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ
INTERIM ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners

MEETING DATE: February 23, 2021

PREPARED BY: Carolyn Almos

REPORT DATE: February 17, 2021

TITLE: Acting District Supervisor

**SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A \$30,000 DONATION FROM THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION
INTO THE ANIMAL STERILIZATION FUND FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES**

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:

1. **ACCEPT** the donation of \$30,000 from the Annenberg Foundation for unrestricted purposes on behalf of the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services; and
2. **APPROVE** the deposit of \$15,000 into Appropriation Unit No. 06005A within the Animal Sterilization Fund – Fund No. 842 entitled, Spay and Neuter Program for the spay and neuter of owned cats and the remaining \$15,000 into Appropriation Unit No. 060053 within the Animal Sterilization Fund – Fund No. 842 entitled, Community Cat S/N Program for the spay and neuter of community cats.
3. **FORWARD** the acceptance of these grant funds to the Mayor and City Council for approval; and
4. **APPROVE** the disbursement of these funds in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Trust Fund.

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Administrative Code, Section 5.200.1 (Receipt of Property) states that any gift or bequest to be used by the Department that exceeds \$25,000 must be approved by the Mayor and City Council.

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com

Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners
SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF A \$30,000 DONATION FROM THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION
INTO THE ANIMAL STERILIZATION FUND FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF THE CITY OF
LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES

On February 8, 2021, the Department of Animal Services received a check in the amount of \$30,000 from the Annenberg Foundation. These funds are an unrestricted donation and will be used for charitable purposes, as requested by the Annenberg Foundation. Specifically, the funds will be disbursed for spay and neuter, with \$15,000 allocated to owned pets, and \$15,000 allocated to community cats.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be no financial impact to the General Fund. This donation will be deposited into the Animal Sterilization Fund and disbursements will be made pursuant to the provisions of the Fund.

Approved:

Brenda F. Barnette

Brenda F. Barnette, General Manager

BOARD ACTION:

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