



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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

**Dial (669) 900-6833 to Join the Meeting and use Webinar ID No. 945 0923 3190 and then Press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID.**

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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. 945 0923 3190 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 23, 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. Presentation of Retirement Certificates for Animal Control Officers Barbara Hatley and Mike Pro (Information Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)
- B. Recognition for Outstanding Staff Effort (ROSE) Nominations (Information Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**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 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,

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 <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](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto: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 23, 2021 at 9:30 AM**

**VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

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

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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, and Cohen. 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 was made by:

- **Glenn Bailey** - President of Northridge East Neighborhood Council - spoke about the reopening of the West Valley shelter and stated there has been discussion amongst the neighborhood councils of financially supporting the West Valley shelter as a nonprofit.
- **Sharon Brewer** - thanked the Commission and General Manager for the plan to reopen West Valley and asked when Foxy and the Hounds will be reinstated.
- **Gail Raff** - thanked the neighborhood councils for fighting to keep West Valley open as a municipal shelter and asked how many rescue groups have applied for STAR funds.

**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 February 9, 2021.

**Commissioner Cohen** moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of February 9, 2021.

**Commissioner García** seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, and Cohen.

Noes: None.

Absent: Finsten and Sandoval.

Public Comment:  
None

### 4. ORAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

**GM Brenda Barnette** discussed the following:

- Pet Food Pantry was held on February 14 and 21. On February 14, there were 212 pets served at Chesterfield Square and 154 pets served at East Valley for a total of 366 pets served. On February 21, there were 169 pets served at Chesterfield Square and 156 pets served at East Valley for a total of 325 pets served. Pet Food Pantry is now being offered once a week every Sunday afternoon.
- We have raised \$18,778.25 of the \$25K goal for the Spay/Neuter matching grant.
- March 14 is the tentative date for reopening North Central and West Valley shelters.
- North Central and West Valley will be operating by appointment only.
- Carolyn Almos is working on a plan to bring volunteers back to the shelters.
- **Commissioner Gross** asked if there will be a grand opening for North Central. **GM Barnette** stated we are planning for a virtual grand opening.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Glenn Bailey** - thanked GM Barnette for the updates and offered assistance to facilitate communication with the various neighborhood councils.
- **Carolyn** - thanked Glenn Bailey and the neighborhood councils for supporting the reopening of West Valley.

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

- **Sharon Brewer** - asked for the procedures on how to handle a dog or cat that is running around the neighborhood and what steps should be used to help reunite the animal with their human owner.
- **Gail Raff** - thanked the Department for reopening West Valley.
- **Cathy Serksnas** - thanked everyone for their efforts in the reopening of West Valley and stated there needs to be better efforts in recruiting staff and retaining them.

## 5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**Commissioner Gross:**

- None.

**Commissioner Cohen:**

- None.

**Commissioner Finsten:**

- None.

**Commissioner García:**

- None.

**Commissioner Sandoval:**

- None.

Public Comment:

None

## 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)

**District Supervisor Carolyn Almos** requested authorization to accept a \$30,000 Donation from The Annenberg Foundation.

**Commissioner García** moved to accept 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.

**Commissioner Cohen** seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Ayes: Gross, García, and Cohen.

Noes: None.

Absent: Finsten and Sandoval.

Public Comment:  
None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.