



BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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

Dial (669) 900-6833 to Join the Meeting and use Webinar ID No. 912 0644 2647 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 State Assembly Bill 361 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. 912 0644 2647 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. Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 / Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

Determination in accordance with AB 361 [Government Code Section 54953(e)(3)] that, while the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Board members to meet safely in person and state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

- B. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of November 9, 2021 (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)
- C. Approval of 2022 Board Meeting Schedule (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. Pets Belong with Families Act (Information Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

B. Continued at the October 12, 2021 Meeting

Private Veterinary Care Programs (Information Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., December 14, 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, November 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 9:32 a.m. Commissioners present were Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval. Also present from Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) was Assistant General Manager (AGM) Curtis Watts, 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. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

1. Dangerous Animal Case: DA 214021 WV

Appellant: Bertha Aviles
West Valley Animal Services Center: Lt. Owen
Complaining Witness: Mike Brosius

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

Commissioner Gross made a motion to continue this hearing to another date to be determined by the Department upon the Department addressing the concerns with the residency and training issues. Appellant Bertha Aviles agreed with the continuance.

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:

- **Cathy Serksnas**- spoke about the canine flu vaccine proposal from 2019 and compared the financial reports from the last two years.
- **Michelle Cornelius** - spoke about a kitten named Jillian who was hit by a car and was not eligible to receive assistance with STAR funds. Also stated that the Department needs to inform rescues sooner when animals are red alerted and have a deadline.
- **Whitney Smith** - spoke about volunteer Carlos Gonzalez and the vaccine mandates for the shelters.
- **Jasmine Jones** - compared the differences between the County's community cat program to the City's and stated that the City should follow the County's program.
- **Gail Raff** - asked for a report back on animals that are being dumped at the South LA shelter, the policy for animals coming into the shelter on an emergency basis, and the Department's handbook on day to day operations.
- **Jeff Mausner** - asked the Department to seriously look into the issues raised by Cathy Serksnas during public comment.

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. Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 / Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) (Action Item; Public comment limited to one minute per speaker)

Determination in accordance with AB 361 [Government Code Section 54953(e)(3)] that, while the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Board members to meet safely in person and state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Commissioner Gross moved to approve in determining accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) that this Board has reconsidered the

circumstances of the COVID-19 state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Board to meet safely in person and state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

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 was made by:

- **Whitney Smith** - stated the Commission meetings should be allowed to meet in person.

B. Approval of the Minutes for Meeting of October 26, 2021.

Commissioner Finsten moved to approve the minutes for the meeting of October 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

AGM Annette Ramirez discussed the following:

- Provided an update on the canine influenza. The Department has been able to contain the outbreak to both the West Valley and West LA shelters and has not spread to the other facilities.
- Intake diversion is being practiced at all our shelters. Diversion is offering the person other options that could be better for the animal. If the person is unable or unwilling to exercise other options, we will accept that animal at our facility.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com

- Foster animals that are available for adoption are listed on the Department's website under the adopt tab titled "Adoptable Pets in Foster Care".
- Commission agenda items that are requested by the public and/or Commissioners may either be discussed through the General Manager report or placed as an independent agenda item, depending upon the item. Final decisions for each agenda are made by the Commission President.
- On October 28, the Department conducted enforcement activity at Santee Alley and a citation was issued for illegal vending. Two rabbits and ten turtles were confiscated.
- The facilities vaccine mandate went into effect on November 8. Anyone coming into the shelter must show proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours or less.
- The deadline for becoming vaccinated or requesting an exemption for Department employees has passed. Those employees who are neither fully vaccinated nor have requested an exemption will be sent home without pay starting November 15.
- Pet Food Pantry was held on October 31 and November 7. On October 31, there were 264 pets served at Chesterfield Square and 289 pets served at East Valley for a total of 553 pets served. On November 7, there were 292 pets served at Chesterfield Square and 313 pets served at East Valley. The first day for North Central's pet food pantry served 37 pets and the total pets served citywide on November 7 was 642.
- **Commissioner Gross** asked Dr. Prupas about the vaccinations and how they are being distributed. **Dr. Prupas** stated that all animals are being vaccinated unless they are not healthy enough to get the vaccine and explained the vaccine protocols.
- **Commissioner Sandoval** asked for a report back on the mobile spay/neuter vans that are currently in use and for a report back on the North Central spay/neuter clinic.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Cathy Serksnas** - spoke about the money being spent from the animal welfare trust funds for the vaccines over the last three years.
- **Whitney Smith** - agreed with the comments from Cathy Serksnas.
- **Jeff Mausner** - stated the first dose of the influenza vaccine should be given to each animal as soon as they come into the shelter. Also stated that the vaccine is beneficial to prevent the spread of the canine influenza.
- **Gail Raff** - stated the employees at South LA need to be educated about the diversion intake.

5. COMMISSIONERS' ORAL REPORTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Gross:

- Report back to provide support for Congressman Adam Schiff's, Pets belong with Families Act, and propose a vote to request that City Council endorse this Act.

Please join us at our website: www.LAAnimalservices.com

Commissioner Cohen:

- Absent.

Commissioner Finsten:

- None.

Commissioner García:

- Asked for a report back on the comparison between the County's community cat program compared to the City's program.

Commissioner Sandoval:

- None.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Whitney Smith** - stated the Commissioners need to request more information on behalf of the public.

6. BOARD REPORTS

- A. Approval of Additional Letters of Agreement with the following Veterinary Care Provider; Pet Orphans of Southern California for participation in the STAR Program (Action Item)

AGM Annette Ramirez requested approval for the additional Letters of Agreement with the following Veterinary Care Provider; Pet Orphans of Southern California for participation in the STAR Program.

Commissioner Sandoval moved to approve the additional Letters of Agreement with the following Veterinary Care Provider; Pet Orphans of Southern California for participation in the STAR Program.

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

Ayes: Gross, García, Finsten, and Sandoval.

Noes: None.

Absent: Cohen.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Michelle Kelly** - is in support of the proposal with Pet Orphans and stated they are an excellent organization.

B. FY 21-22 1st Quarter Financial Reports (Information Item)

SMA Sharon Lee provided an update on the FY 21-22 1st Quarter Financial Reports.

Public Comment was made by:

- **Cathy Serksnas** - spoke about the discrepancies in the expenditures for general salaries and the animal sterilization fund.
- **Whitney Smith** - stated there is money in different accounts that are not being used for the animals.
- **Jeff Mausner** - suggested that the Department request more money from the American Rescue Plan for the animal sterilization fund for low-income families.
- **Gail Raff** - asked for the policies on using money from the animal welfare trust fund.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 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

**DEPARTMENT OF
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Lifesaving

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

Date: November 23, 2021
To: Board of Animal Services Commissioners
From: Francine Acuña, Executive Administrative Assistant
Subject: CALENDAR YEAR 2022 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	MEETING DATE	MEETING LOCATION	TIME	ADDRESS
January	11	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 997 1737 7331; Press #
	25	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 928 0224 3718; Press #
February	8	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 996 0973 8421; Press #
	22	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 958 9119 9016; Press #
March	8	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 955 0190 4958; Press #
	22	Virtual Meeting	6:00 PM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 942 9666 6345; Press #
April	12	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 996 5336 7272; Press #
	26	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 961 2656 3941; Press #
May	10	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 974 5715 7866; Press #
	24	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 980 6502 7854; Press #
June	14	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 967 5455 9817; Press #
	28	Virtual Meeting	6:00 PM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 974 9164 9334; Press #
July	12	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 946 0236 9204; Press #
	26	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 915 0095 7472; Press #
August	9	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 959 0324 9556; Press #
	23	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 982 8050 6717; Press #
September	13	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 939 5778 8901; Press #
	27	Virtual Meeting	6:00 PM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 975 8755 3624; Press #
October	11	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 939 1426 3040; Press #
	25	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 929 7376 2653; Press #
November	8	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 930 5389 0637; Press #
	22	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 963 2347 1171; Press #
December	13	Virtual Meeting	9:30 AM	Dial (669) 900-6833; and use Webinar ID No. 978 4595 2725; Press #
	27	No Meeting		

**Meetings will be held virtually until further notice*

"Creating a Humane LA"
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com