

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS\***

**KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

**Kern County Administrative Building**  
1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Multipurpose Room

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 6:00p.m.

**A. ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson/Commissioner  
Ms. Geary – Commissioner  
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner  
Ms. Madigan - Commissioner

Commissioners Excused:  
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson/Commissioner  
Ms. Perez – Commissioner (*non-voting member*)

Staff Present:  
Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services  
Jerri S. Bradley – Deputy County Counsel  
Blake Smith – Business Manager, Kern County Animal Services  
Amber Chrissakis –Volunteer OSS, Kern County Animal Services

*[When names appear in parenthesis, the motion initiating action on the agenda item was made by the first Commissioner named and seconded by the second Commissioner named.]*

**B. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS:**

1. April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Motion to Approve as Amended (*Madigan/Geary*) – All in favor



**C. CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. CORRESPONDENCE FILED WITH THE COMMISSION - Receive and File

NONE

**D. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Commission on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commissioners may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification; make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Commission at a later meeting. Also, the Commission may act to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Please state your name and address for the record before making your presentation. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES.**

Heard from Liz Keogh who informed the group that the wife of Peggy Soltis has been very ill and has been put on hospice. Ms. Keogh also speaks about the Metropolitan Bakersfield Animal Control Committee that was formed in 2012-2013. She states that the Committee was looking to form a joint powers authority (JPA). She gives her opinion on why a JPA would be beneficial and how not having one is inconvenient. She believes the issue of the JPA should be revisited and asks that the Commission make that recommendation to the Board. Commissioner Madigan comments that she would be willing to work with Liz and others to come up with a presentation that could be shared with the Commission and others to help inform everyone on this topic. Commissioner Anderson said she was unclear if any of the people previously involved in previous negotiations would be available to give some insight. Commissioner Geary spoke about her experience in Irvine and with Orange County and is not sure that a JPA is workable in Kern County but believes a mutual agreement could possibly work.

**E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:**

1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file

Heard from Director Cullen who reports on the Mega Adoption Event held on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He reports that it was a successful event in which a total of 70 animals were adopted out from different shelters and rescue groups. He also reports on the Tales for Tails reading program. Director Cullen also speaks about the shelter's foster program, stating that the Foster Coordinator has been working towards the goal of having more animals in foster than there are in the shelter. He reports that she is not far from achieving that goal. Director Cullen asks that people spread the word that Kern County Animal Services is still working diligently to get to their no kill goal by 2020 and they cannot get there without the support of the community. At the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting, at 9am Director Cullen will be requesting that the Board declare the month of June "Kern County Animal Services No Kill Effort Awareness Month". Director Cullen



also speaks about the department's loss of a long time Animal Control Officer, Mike Green, who had been battling leukemia for the last year and a half. Director Cullen clarified an item of correspondence discussed from the March meeting in which he was unable to attend. Lastly, Director Cullen goes over the statistics from the Director's report.

## 2. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Director Cullen in the absence of Jeff George. Director Cullen reports the volunteer statistics for the month of April from the Director's report.

Heard from an unidentified member of the public who asks Director Cullen to clarify how the foster program works and how long an animal stays in the foster program. Director Cullen reports that majority of the animals in foster are in foster just long enough to get them to the 8 weeks of age required by law before the shelter can alter them adopt them out. Director Cullen then speaks about a new program called "The Mean Queens" that he has yet to promote. The goal of the program is to hold feral mother cats with their babies until the babies are old enough to be removed from the mother, all of them altered the mother being sent back via TNR and the babies adopted out.

Larry Keller from Critters Without Litters asks Director Cullen about how the county's low income voucher program fits into the no kill goal. Director Cullen states that spay/neuter is one of the most important factors to becoming no kill. Mr. Keller shares his concerns about the limited amount of information available to the public on the low income voucher program on the county's website. Commissioner Madigan speaks about a conversation had last year at a Commission meeting in which she volunteered to update the spay/neuter options document and give it to Vicky of Critters Without Litters to post on their website as well. Vicky also shares her concerns with the availability of information on the low income voucher program. Liz Keogh also gave her thoughts on the low income voucher program. Commissioner Geary asks Director Cullen if a new website isn't available soon is it possible update the spay/neuter information on the existing website in which he replies yes. Commissioner Geary also asks Director Cullen if there is an option with the current phone system to choose a prompt and get spay/neuter information, to which he responds there is not.

## 3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE - Receive and File

Heard from Blake Smith who reports on the data on the Spay/Neuter report. Blake also speaks about funds allocated for outlying areas of the county. Blake also talks about a day in early June in which the shelter will be selling vouchers for \$10. Liz Keogh asks if those vouchers will function the same as vouchers sold any other day to which Blake responds that they will. Blake also states that the biggest challenge faced with vouchers is veterinary capacity. He states the veterinarians are doing as much as they can as fast as they can. Commissioner Madigan asks Vicky if that was the case for them to which she replies with large female dogs to become a challenge in some cases. Blake also



states another challenge is finding vets willing to take the county's vouchers in outlying areas. Commissioner Anderson asks Blake about how the trust fund works and he explains it to her.

Motion to receive and file - (*Madigan/Taggart*) – All in favor

## **F. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS:**

On their own initiative, Commissioners may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff, or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2(a)).

Heard from Commissioner Madigan who asks Director Cullen the status on the X-ray machine that has been discussed in several other meetings. Director Cullen responds that it has been ordered but not yet delivered. Commissioner Madigan also wanted to reiterate that research shows that to reduce intake of animals that low income vouchers should be available for low income residents not just everyone. She still supports keeping the low income guidelines. Commissioner Madigan encourages anyone interested in supporting the McFarland shelter to do so. Commissioner Madigan asks Director Cullen the status of the Pet Retention program. Director Cullen responds that the department still fields calls in regards to the program but most of the calls are from residents who need to rehome their pets. Lastly, Commissioner Madigan asks Vicky to give a brief overview of the City's TNR program. Vicky briefly explains the process to the Commission. Liz Keogh expresses her concerns with the program's process.

## **G. OLD BUSINESS:**

### **1. STAFF REFERRALS**

NONE

### **2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Heard from Commissioner Geary who reported that on April 2<sup>nd</sup> the Central California Animal Disaster Team held a core training and basic animal sheltering training in which 25 people attended. It was a successful training and tentatively there will be another scheduled June 11<sup>th</sup> at the SPCA. Both the core and animal sheltering trainings are required to be a volunteer with CCADT. Due to the time frame Commissioner Geary will not be able to pass out fliers to meeting attendees so she suggests going to the LARIAT Facebook page for more information. Commissioner Geary also reports that they had a booth at the Mega Adoption event and a lot of information was given out that day as well. Lastly, she reports that CCADT is having a dog fighting training in which they have invited Larry Sackett of the Humane Society of the United States to attend. She encourages anyone who wants to attend to let her know.

Jerri Bradley asks for clarification on the date and place of the dog fighting training in which Commissioner Geary responds June 1<sup>st</sup> at the SPCA. Director Cullen corrects Commissioner Geary and states that the dog fighting class is June 1<sup>st</sup> in the administration building on Truxtun, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room.

Heard from Director Cullen who states that the County is predicting that this fire season is going to be the worst in Kern County history and urges people to be prepared to evacuate and to tell others to be prepared to evacuate.

### 3. FRIENDS OF THE KERN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTERS UPDATE

NONE

### 4. CITIZEN'S PATROL SUB COMMITTEE

Commissioner Anderson updates as Commissioner Blackburn and Jeff George are not in attendance this evening. She reports that she has forwarded updated information to both Jeff and Commissioner Blackburn. She also reports that Commissioner Blackburn may be attending a clinic in June.

Commissioner Madigan asks for a description of the Citizen's Patrol. Commissioner Anderson explains that it would be to create a citizen's patrol in Kern County.

### 5. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE FREQUENCY OF FUTURE ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSION MEETINGS

Due to her absence when the first discussion came up, Commissioner Madigan gave her preference that nothing change in the frequency of future Animal Services Commission meetings.

Motion to leave the meeting schedule as is - (*Geary/Taggart*) – All in favor



**H. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. DISCUSS THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN DOGS AS REQUESTED BY CHAIRPERSON ANDERSON**

Commissioner Anderson had some handouts in regards to this subject. She speaks about instances in LA that dogs have had confirmed cases of, symptoms of or have passed away from canine influenza. She asks Director Cullen if Kern County Animal Services has anything in place to notify the public in case something of this nature occurs in Kern County. Director Cullen tells her that medical staff at KCAS is testing the animals in the shelter for canine influenza and that if there was a positive case the media and the public would be notified immediately. Commissioner Anderson asked if there was communication between county agencies in situations such as this to which Director Cullen responds that there is not. Director Cullen states that KCAS was notified by the vaccination supplier.

Terri Kahn speaks about some hand outs she gave to the Commission in regards to importation of dogs. She speaks about different instances in which diseases have come from other countries with diseases. She also speaks about diseases that is transferred from canine to human.

Motion to Receive and File documents given by Terri Kahn (*Madigan/Taggart*)  
- All in Favor

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn (*Geary/Taggart*) – All in favor.

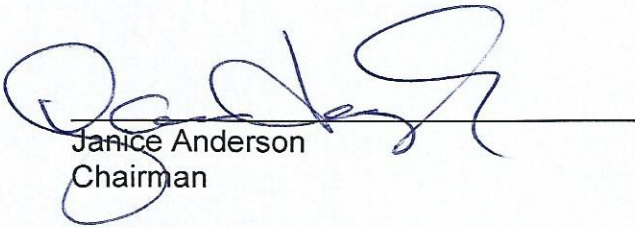
The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

The next Animal Services Commission meeting is scheduled for:

June 21<sup>st</sup> 2017  
6:00 p.m.

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Attest:



Janice Anderson  
Chairman

*\*A full recording of the proceedings can be heard at [http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC\\_AS.aspx](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC_AS.aspx)*