

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS*

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

Kern County Administrative Building
1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
3rd Floor, Multipurpose Room

April 18th, 2018 – 6:00p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Ms. Anderson –Chairperson
Mr. Blackburn – Vice Chairperson
Ms. Geary – Commissioner
Ms. Madigan – Commissioner
Ms. Taggart – Commissioner

Commissioners Excused: Ms. Perez – Commissioner

Staff Present:

Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services
Jerri S. Bradley – Deputy County Counsel, Kern County
Blake Smith – Business Manager, Kern County Animal Services
Amber Chrissakis – 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. March 21st, 2018 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 Judy Hewett from Tehachapi. She is a neighbor of the person involved in the hoarding case. She shared her experience and concerns about the situation and asked why nothing was done sooner. Director Cullen explained the laws that are in and the process that happens in situations such as this hoarding case. Heard from Commissioner Madigan who shares her concern as well. Commissioner Geary clarified that there were calls made to the department and that those calls were responded to in which Director Cullen replied they did. Commissioner Blackburn shares his concerns as well. Commissioner Blackburn asks Director Cullen if it is ongoing in which Director Cullen responded it is. Commissioner Madigan asks Director Cullen if there are any laws that could be changed that would have helped the department act sooner. Director Cullen explains that the department did cite him for everything they could and that without the ability to remove the animals there wasn't anything else they could have done. The conditions the animals were in was ultimately what allowed them to remove the animals. Jerri Bradley responds and gives brief suggestions on what ordinances could be changed to help situations such as hoarding cases. There is brief discussion about the disconnect between the department and the courts as far as animal violations are concerned and the court process. Jerri explains the process if the Commission decides to pursue an ordinance change. Commissioner Blackburn asked if someone provided video if it would be enough probable cause to obtain a warrant. Director Cullen responds. Joan Peyton asks if a hobby kennel permit would have helped this situation. Heard from Wally Beville asked if Code Enforcement being involved would have helped. Director Cullen explained that Commercial Animal Facility permit is issued by Animal Services and does not involve Code Enforcement. Heard from Liz Keogh who asked if there was a time in which Animal Services was working with Code Enforcement to bring animal related code matters under the animal ordinances to which Director Cullen responds that is correct and some were adopted.

Heard from Susan Richardson who shares her concerns with the hoarding situation in Tehachapi. She shares concerns that the city and the county tells people different time periods in which someone has to hold a stray dog that is found and held by the public.

Heard from Michelle Vallejos who requested an open forum discussion. She asked if the ordinance preventing sale of dogs in public spaces applies to online forums as well. She asked if there is any restrictions for online sales of dogs. Commissioner Madigan responds that she likes the idea of a public forum.

Heard from Wally Beville who asked how to report people dumping sick dogs to Animal Services. Director Cullen explains that it is almost impossible to present pictures of animals posted online for sale and pictures of puppies found dumped and getting a judge to agree. Director Cullen tells everyone that his door is always open. Commissioner Anderson states that education is key across the board.

Heard from Terri Kahn who states that puppies under 8 weeks of age cannot be sold or adopted out to new homes and maybe that may be one way to cite people violating state law.

Heard from Stacey Steffe who shares her opinions on education versus legislation. She asks the current legislation in regards to printing permit numbers on ads for dogs/puppies applies to online print. She suggests that if it does not cover online print it is probably an easy ordinance change to have online print also.

Heard from Teresa Wilson who was a neighbor of the person in Tehachapi who was involved in the hoarding situation. She shares her concerns and Director Cullen briefly responds and there is brief discussion regarding current ordinances in Kern County.

E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file

Heard from Nick Cullen who shares information about the department's Mega Adoption. He also gives statistics on field services. Director Cullen gives statistics from the Director's report. He emphasizes the importance of vaccinations and gives information on when and where to obtain vaccinations. He thanks the volunteers and explains how important volunteers are to the organization. Heard from Commissioner Blackburn who goes over statistics from the Director's report. Heard from Liz Keogh who talks about the large turn out for a recent vaccination clinic. Commissioner Madigan asked Director Cullen about the innovation grant for the kitten nursery (L.I.O.N. program) to which he responds that the department did not win the grant but there is discussion of a program similar but on a smaller scale.

2. VOLUNTEER UPDATE - Receive and File

Director Cullen covered this item in his Director's report.

3. SPAY/NEUTER FUNDS UPDATE

Heard from Blake Smith, who discusses the spay/neuter funds report.

Motion to Receive and file *(Geary/Madigan)* - All in favor

F. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Heard from Commissioner Blackburn who spoke to the student from BC. He asked them to invite their teacher to attend next month's meeting so he can thank him/her.

Heard from Commissioner Madigan who followed up with the public's concern about the current appointments of the Commissioners. She verified that she is currently appointed and that it will be fixed online. She also follows up that she was overdue for ethics training but she has done that training and has submitted her paperwork. She also spoke about her concerns about being a hearing officer and lack of information she had for a hearing recently. There is brief discussion in regards to seizure hearing in which Commissioner Madigan, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Geary, Director Cullen and Jerri Bradley contributed to. Commissioner Madigan also shares her thoughts on Bit of Heaven horse rescue.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. STAFF REFERRALS

NONE

2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUB-COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Geary who reports that CCADT will be at the Mega Adoption with the emergency trailer.

3. LIFESTOCK CONTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Heard from Commissioner Geary who reports she has submitted a very rough draft of recommendations and is continuing to work on that.

Heard from a unidentified member of the public who asks Director Cullen if he thinks the seizure of 140+ dogs in Tehachapi constitutes an emergency. Director Cullen responds that a natural disaster would be what this emergency trailer would be used for. The member of the public then asks if we would assist in other counties to which Director Cullen replies they would if requested to but this is more for disasters in Kern County.

4. MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER

Heard from Director Cullen who opens the discussion by saying that he requested mandatory spay/neuter be placed back on the agenda because he feels as though the subject needed more discussion and research to see if it is feasible in Kern County. Commissioner Blackburn asked Director Cullen if he could get that data and Director Cullen said he would be more than happy to sit with a subcommittee and find that data. Heard from Commissioner Madigan who shared that she has documents and information from 10 years ago that could help get the discussion started. Director Cullen turns it back to the Commission to decide if they feel a subcommittee needs to be formed and if so, to choose members. Commissioner Madigan states she would be willing to sit on a subcommittee and she would like to see some members of the public sit on a subcommittee as well. Commissioner Blackburn was not sure if the Commission has the tools to find the research needed. Commissioner Geary is concerned with the enforceability of mandatory spay/neuter.

Motion to form subcommittee by Madigan but failed due to lack of second

Motion to Receive and file 3 documents provided by Commissioner Madigan:

1. Document regarding spay/neuter options written on 05/21/08 by David Price III, 2. A online news article written 05/22/08 by James Burger regarding "Commission splits on mandatory spay/neuter proposal, 3. A draft written 3/29/08 regarding "Kern County MSN Ordinance. (*Taggart/Geary*) - All in favor

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. REPORT FROM LISA RICHARDSON REGARDING VISIT TO AUSTIN, TX

Heard from Director Cullen who gave a brief report on Lisa Richardson and Deanna Alwahabi's trip to Austin Pets Alive.

I. ADJOURNMENT:

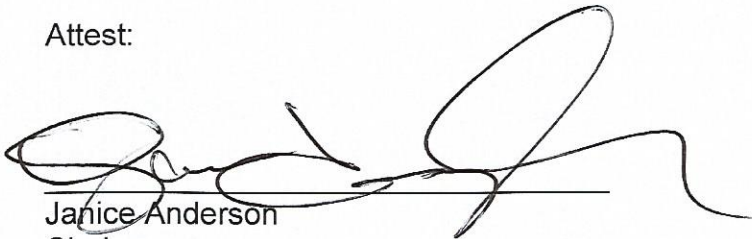
Motion to adjourn (*Geary/Taggart*) – All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next Animal Control Commission meeting is scheduled for:

May 16th, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Attest:



Janice Anderson
Chairman

**A full recording of the proceedings can be heard at http://www.co.kern.ca.us/acd/AAC_AS.aspx*