

**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

September 21st, 2022– 6:00p.m.

**A. ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.  
Commissioners Present:

Mr. Blackburn – Chairperson  
Ms. Geary - Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Christopher - Commissioner  
Ms. Taggart - Commissioner  
Mr. Sannappa - Commissioner

Commissioners Excused:

Mr. Couch – Supervisor

Staff Present:

Nick Cullen – Director, Kern County Animal Services  
Jeremy McNutt- Deputy County Counsel, Kern County  
Amber Chrissakis - Volunteer OSS, Kern County Animal Services

*item was made by the first Commissioner named and seconded by the second Commissioner named.]*

**B. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

1. August 17th, 2022 regular meeting. Motion was made to approve the August 17th, 2022 Summary of Proceedings.

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

**C. CONSENT AGENDA:**

These agenda items before the Animal Services Commission (Commission) may be acted upon with one motion if no member of the Commission or audience wishes to comment or ask questions.

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 Carrie Zaninovich regarding a letter she has written and sent to the county government offices about her frustrations with what she perceives as a lack of awareness in local government of the issues that face animal welfare locally.



## **E. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS**

### **1. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Receive and file**

- a. Director Cullen goes over the Director's Report, highlighting some successes in adoptions during the month of August. Director Cullen mentions it is a struggle to get animals spayed and neutered in a consistent and timely fashion, specifically in preparation for adoption. Cullen goes on to speak about public vaccination clinics in August, and how prior month clinics had to be cancelled due to extreme heat. Cullen speaks about the two (2) spay and neuter clinics KCAS held in August. Also that the department still does offer vouchers to cover the cost of spay and neuter.
- b. Commissioner Geary asks what the back up plan would be for the public spay and neuter program should the vendor no longer be able to perform. Cullen states that there aren't any other mobile options for spay and neuter in Kern County that he is aware of.
- c. Commissioner Christopher asks if the small number of Veterinarians that do accept county spay and neuter vouchers are all located in Bakersfield. Cullen states that he is not 100% sure, but that he believes this to be the case.
- d. Commissioner Blackburn asks in regards to the volunteer program, who would interested volunteers see to apply to be a volunteer. Cullen advises that the community does not need to physically come down to the Animal Services facility to apply to be a volunteer, but rather can do so through the department website under the "how to help" button.
- e. Commissioner Sannappa asks Cullen if an individual that had offered document translation services at a prior meeting had contacted the department. Cullen advises that she had not done so to his knowledge, but that other options have been pursued since that have been productive. Sannappa then asks if another individual that had offered social media assistance at a prior meeting is being worked with, to which Cullen responds that other than exchanging contact info, nothing further has transpired.

Public Comments

NONE

Motion to Receive and file (*Sannappa/Christopher*) - All in favor

## **F. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

1. Commissioner Sannappa advises that it was his intention to attend county budget hearings, but that he took ill and was unable to do so. Sannappa advises that he had

been able to speak with his Board member regarding the resources that are appropriated to Animal Services.

2. Commissioner Geary states that she seconds what Sannappa states.
3. Commissioner Taggart advises that the veterinarian office that she works at is seeing similar issues in her area with lack of resources to see all of the animals in their clinic in a reasonable amount of time.
4. Commissioner Christopher speaks about a colony of cats located at the vacant Kmart lot in Tehachapi. Christopher advises that people continue to abandon litters of kitten at this location, and she has found it frustrating to find resolution to stop the abandonment of cats at this location.
5. Commissioner Geary asks Director Cullen if he has reached out to a Dr. Darrow from Southern Kern Vet Hospital in regards to the spay and neuter of community pets. Cullen advises that he has not but that he will do so.

#### **G. OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **1. STAFF REFERRALS**

NONE

##### **2. AKC REUNITE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

- a. Joan Peyton advises that they have received a recent \$1,000 donation, that they are reaching out to local businesses for support, and that they are working with KCAS on marketing.

##### **3. STATUS ON ORDINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REVISIONS**

- a. Director Cullen advises that the subcommittee (SC) has met weekly for 5 weeks straight. Also that the last meeting the SC had they went over a final piece that caused some debate amongst the SC members.
- b. Commissioner Geary asks if County Counsel has been attending the SC meetings. Cullen advises that they have been.
- c. Commissioner Blackburn advises that he feels the SC is approximately 90% done with their review.
- d. Commissioner Sannappa asks if Cullen can expand on what topic was debated recently. Cullen advises that it was specifically the language pertaining to animal care requirements in extreme temperatures.

#### **H. NEW BUSINESS:**

NONE

#### **I. ADJOURNMENT:**

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



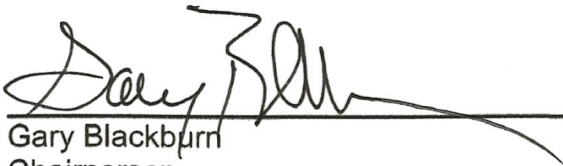
The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

The next Animal Control Commission meeting is scheduled for:

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

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Attest:

  
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Gary Blackburn  
Chairperson