



Prevent animal abuse!

#3

Davey's Voice Foundation
for the
Protection of Animals
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March 31, 2017

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RE: Animal Welfare Commission / Animal Services Advisory Committee
4/4/2017 Agenda Item: Departmental Agenda,
Planning Items and Public Hearings,
(Item 3), 17-00248

Honorable Chair Hartmann and Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County:

After reading the "*Progress Report on Implementation of American Humane Association Recommendations*", prepared by Carrie Topliffe, Interim Director, Public Health Department, we respectfully request that an ***Animal Welfare Commission*** be created that will foster and promote the "hybrid/bridge" model of service delivery for the County of Santa Barbara Animal Services Program. This "hybrid/bridge" approach would establish a better connection between Animal Services and the community as well as local non-profit organizations (DAWG, ASAP, C.A.R.E.4Paws, K~9 PALS, BUNS, Animal Care Foundation, CAPA, ResQcats and SB Humane Society to name a few). By partnering with these non-profits, the county could possibly reduce the operating budget for County of Santa Barbara Animal Services Program.

This will ONLY happen if the Board of Supervisors establishes an ***Animal Welfare Commission*** which will be a bridge between the County of Santa Barbara Animal Services and the public. If the current Oversight Team transitions into an *Animal Services Advisory Committee* in June of 2017, will definitive change occur? Or will the same people that are employed by the County of Santa Barbara Animal Services Program continue to be rigid in their decisions?

The ***Animal Welfare Commission*** could be structured similarly to the County Boards of Architectural Review (*only one, not four*) where individuals with knowledge and passion about animal welfare would be appointed by each Supervisor. Eventually, the Animal Welfare Commission could transfer some of costs of Animal Services in Santa Barbara County to local Non-Profit 501 (c) 3s.

Don't be silent! Prevent animal abuse! Be their voice!

Nonprofit 501 (c)(3) Tax ID# 47-7356580



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The *Animal Welfare Commission* would promote public support for Animal Services, increase efficiency, reduce costs and provide better animal care and better shelter services to the community. We believe such a commission could further accomplish the following:

1. Be a partner able to solicit grants for Animal Services not available to public agencies
2. Help create awareness of animal abuse and neglect issues
3. Promote spay/neuter throughout the county
4. Promote programs to maximize enrichment for the shelter animals, as well as opportunities for adoption
5. Foster accountability in providing first class veterinary care for the shelter animals
6. Provide a forum for discussion of animal issues raised by the community
7. Follow trends and improvements in Animal Services state and nationwide
8. Give in-put on prioritizing budget issues
9. Recruit and help retain community volunteers
10. Plan and execute events to promote adoption and retention of companion animals
11. Strengthen volunteer programs within the shelters to reduce taxpayer costs
12. Explore other cost savings for animal services

The Animal Services Commission model is utilized successfully in Los Angeles City's Animal Services Commission and provides a regular forum for members of the public engaged in animal welfare to raise issues and suggestions to improve the operations of the Animal Services.

Here is a link to their website:

<http://www.laanimalservices.com/about-us-2/commission/>

Here is a link to a recent Agenda:

<http://www.laanimalservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/03282017-agd.pdf>

In summary, Davey's Voice is in support of a best in class approach to Animal Welfare governance / oversight within Santa Barbara County, and that can only happen via the establishment of a true democracy, i.e. a formal Commission.

Sincerely,

DAVEY'S VOICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Lieff".

Gretchen Lieff
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martha Gray".

Martha Gray
TRESURER

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Becky Kelber
SECRETARY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Bellomy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that loops back towards the end of the name.

Amy Bellomy
DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

Laura Jones
MARKETING DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maile Schoonover". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maile Schoonover
CONTENT CREATOR

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