

Ramirez, Angelica

Health & Human Services

**From:** Lee Heller <k9krma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 12:47 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** public comment for end of day



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Dear COB --

I'm not sure if there is public comment at the end of all the departmental presentations today, but if there is, please read the following comments on my behalf.

Chair Hart and Members of the Board,

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the County's budget at an historically difficult time. I know you are facing challenging decisions at a moment of extreme uncertainty.

I wanted to comment on Animal Services, the agency with which I have been involved and for which I have advocated for many years. Animal Services staff have been doing an incredible job. Due in great part to the work of Interim Community Outreach Coordinator Michelle Maltun, in partnership with ASAP, almost all of the county's adoptable dogs and cats are in foster homes or have been adopted. Those animals in foster can be adopted through a process that ensures physical distancing; indeed, Michelle held an Instagram live meet-and-greet for adoptable dogs on Saturday night! Having these animals in foster is much better for them, reduces some of the County's expenses, and reduces the pressure on Animal Services staff, who do not have to take care of animals and can limit their own exposures.

That said, having these animals off site does not eliminate the program's responsibility for them. Shelter supervisors still oversee placements. Michelle is still working hard to market the animals and keep the community engaged and supportive. And of course the County is still responsible for their veterinary care.

Although AS staff have reduced some of their work to protect themselves and the community, they must still respond to a variety of needs, including taking in animals, responding to urgent field calls, and continuing to enforce state and local laws.

I ask for your appreciation of the work being done, and support for continuing to keep these key staff in their jobs, doing what is necessary for the animals and people of our county.

Thank you.