

Diana Basehart Foundation



Board

Diana Basehart

Lynne Shaw

Daran Haug

Bernie Sandler

Ann Smith

March 31, 2017

Honorable Chair Hartmann and Board of Supervisors,

RE: Animal Welfare Commission

We are writing in favor of the formation of an independent Animal Welfare Commission (AWC) that would be a separate entity from the current "Oversight" model which runs under the supervision of Animal Services.

Even though many of the AHA recommendations have been implemented by the Oversight Team, there is still much work to be done. An independent commission would bridge the divide that still exists and ensure that all parties are heard without bias. It is important that the people appointed to the commission are fair and open minded to all parties involved in working toward making our Santa Barbara County shelters a model for others.

An AWC would always put the health and welfare of our shelter animals first and foremost, bringing in new and innovative ideas, better transparency, and a new culture consisting of positive and constructive changes to a system that is still currently closed to public stakeholders.

Thank you very much.

Diana Basehart
President

Lynne Shaw
Co-Founder
Diana Basehart Foundation

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