ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF THE MESILLA VALLEY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGENDA

The following agenda will be considered at a regular Meeting of the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley Board of Directors to be Held on Thursday, February 14th, 2019 at 9am at the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call of ASCMV Board Members and Determination of Quorum

III. Changes to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

IV. Minutes
   a. Approval of the Minutes from the regular ASCMV Board Meeting held January 10th, 2019.

V. Reports/Presentations
   a. City and County ACO Reports – City Animal Control and County Animal Control
   b. ASCMV 2018 Annual Report – Clint Thacker
   c. Shelter Statistics/Activities – Clint Thacker
   d. Committee Reports
      1. Finance – David Dollahon, Committee Chair
      2. Executive – Kasandra Gandara, Committee Chair
      3. Facilities – Greg Smith, Committee Chair
   e. Zero In 7 Update

VI. Action Items
   b. Election of Officers
   c. Committee Member Appointments

VII. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF THE MESILLA VALLEY WILL CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION to discuss the annual performance reviews of the Director of the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (which is closed pursuant to Section 10-15-1-H(2), NMSA 1978).

VIII. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF THE MESILLA VALLEY MAY RE-CONVENE IN OPEN SESSION to take action, if any, on the closed session items.

IX. Public Input

X. Chair and Board Comments

XI. Adjournment
ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF MESILLA VALLEY

January 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jack Eakman - Board Member (departed 11:50)
Lynn Ellins - Board Member
Ramon S. Gonzalez, Board Member
Fernando R. Macias - Board Member
Gregory Z. Smith - Board Member
David Dollahon - Ex-Officio Member (departed 11:18)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:
Kassandra Gandara - Chair

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance (9:03 PM)

Smith: I am going to be chairing today because Councilor Gandara is away. She's going to be trying to call in. It is 9:00 we're starting. I want to welcome from the Doña Ana County, our County Manager Fernando Macias and our newly elected for District 1, I believe, Commissioner Lynn Ellins, welcome to the Board gentlemen and thank you for joining us today. If they patch Chair Gandara in at some point we'll have to vote at that point to allow her to participate via telephone. But our first order of business is to stand together and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Smith: Thank you.

II. Roll Call of ASCMV Board Members and Determination of Quorum

Smith: Next we're going to be looking at on our agenda at the roll call to determine a quorum. Ms. Baum?

Baum: Board Member Dollahon.

Dollahon: Present.

Baum: Board Member Macias.

Macias: Present.

Baum: Board Member Ellins.
Ellins: Here.

Baum: Board Member Gonzalez.

Gonzalez: Present.

Baum: Board Member Eakman.

Eakman: Here.

Baum: Board Member Smith.

Smith: Present.

Baum: Chairperson Gandara.

Smith: We don’t have her yet.

Baum: Absent.

Smith: Thank you.

III. Changes to Agenda and Approval of Agenda

Smith: We have the agenda before us. Are there any suggestions for changes or a motion to approve?

Eakman: Move approval of the agenda as printed.

Gonzalez: Second.

Smith: Moved by Board Member Eakman and seconded by Board Member Gonzalez. Any discussion? All in favor?

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Smith: Any opposed? Hearing none then the agenda is approved.

IV. Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes from the regular ASCMV Board Meeting held December 13, 2018

Smith: The next item on the agenda is the minutes, approval of minutes from our regular ASCMV Board meeting held December 13th. Given that there are four of us who were members at that point, we can vote on this particular
item, and of course those members who are new and weren't at that meeting will have to abstain.

Eakman: Move approval.

Smith: Thank you.

Gonzalez: Second.

Smith: Moved by Board Member Eakman and seconded by Board Member Gonzalez. Any discussion, changes, suggestions? No. All right. Then roll call please.

Baum: Board Member Dollahon.

Dollahon: Aye.

Baum: Board Member Gonzalez.

Gonzalez: Yes.

Baum: Board Member Eakman.

Eakman: Yes.

Baum: Board Member Smith.

Smith: Yes.

Baum: Chairperson Gandara. No.

Smith: And since that phone is ringing that may be her trying to come in. We will see if we. Okay, I thought it was a little different from our normal patch-in.

V. Reports/Presentations

A. City and County ACO Reports - City and County Animal Control

Smith: All right. We have the City and County ACO reports and I believe the first, great the County will be first and we'll look forward to hearing. It looks like you've got some great accompaniment here today.

Ward: Good morning Chair, Councilmen, and Board Members. Mary Lou Ward, Animal Control and Codes Supervisor for Doña Ana County. Let me see if I can get this going here. Okay, I'm going to go ahead and start with our December report for our Animal Control office. And I'll start out with the
number of animals that were picked up for animal control. We picked up 229 animals for the month of December. And again I've been reporting these in the same format as Billy Garrett requested in the past, so if you look on the right hand side, that column right there is 198 versus the other column to the left or to the right I mean excuse me is 31. The 198 are the ones that actually got impounded into the shelter, the other side never made it to the shelter.

So we had 10 owner-release dogs, 106 dogs, 53 cats, nine care and welfare animals, so its care and maintenance type, whenever someone is not taking care of their pet, 19 injured and one rabies quarantined. And then the rest on the other side is the livestock, two livestock were picked up, three snakes, and 26 dead animals.

And then I'll move up to our returned to owners in the field for December, RTO's stands for "Return to Owners" for the month of December, it's 166, so that's a 19.4% increase from the year before. Two hundred and forty-four animals were scanned. And of course the animals that you can't scan are livestock, vicious animals, dead animals that are not scan-able, dead animals, so if they're in pieces or what not on the street where they're not able to be scanned.

And so I just kind of changed this part up a little bit, so how did they get home for ours, we had 47 chips found, 61 ID’s found, 27 visible identifications and then 31 just like driving around asking owners and what-not who this animal belongs to. And then moving into our Return to Owners, for our first place, you'll see two officers here, I have two star officers this month because they both tied and usually I would like to bring the officer for the month that returned the most in the field, so that's Officer Bryan Hulsey and Officer Ray Adams. They both tied with 29 animals a piece. Our department kind of has a competition every month as to who can return the most.

And then going into the other types of calls and statistics, we had 912 Animal Control calls, 264 codes calls with a total of 1,176 calls for the month of December. Those are broken down, not in that exact number, but kind of the call types of what's been reported back to me that we've done; 57 injured animals, 12 cruelty calls, 68 vicious animals, 20 bites. And then educating, educated or we got compliance on 110 licensing/microchips and 59 permits, 110 rabies and then 92 care and maintenance.

And then just really quick, I went ahead and added our yearly stats. This is not something we do every month, but since we've closed out the year of December, I thought it would be nice and important to have these statistics in there. And I'm very proud of the number that we returned for the year of 2018, 1,794 animals in the field back to their owners instead of going into the shelter. That's a 41.2% increase from the year before. And then of course, I have Officer Ray Adams, who returned the most for the year in our department which is 339 animals.

This next chart is just a comparison chart from the years started in 2014 all the way up until '18, just something that you can see for a
comparison. And then finally our overall 2018 stats, we responded to 10,772 calls for service, 480 injured animals, 108 cruelty calls, 729 vicious animals calls, 338 bite calls and then we educated or got compliance on 579 licensing, 422 permits, 606 rabies vaccinations and 945 care and maintenance. And with that I'll stand for questions.

Smith: Thank you Officer Ward. And do we have Chair Gandara on the phone now? Okay, I heard the phone noise and I thought maybe we did. All right. Any questions then for Officer Ward or Officer Adams or Officer Hulsey? Yes, Board Member Gonzales and them Board Member Ellins.

Gonzalez: Ms. Ward. In regard to those 20 bite calls, how many were vaccinated?

Ward: On the bite for the month you mean?

Gonzalez: Yes.

Ward: I would have to go back and do the research for you and see. Those were the bites that were quarantined.

Gonzalez: Yes, because sometimes you know when you get bitten, you got a person who gets bitten they got to go get however many shots. But I was just wondering of those 20 animals who bit people or whoever they bit, I was just wondering how many of those dogs were vaccinated?

Ward: I can get that for you sir.

Gonzalez: Appreciate it. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Officer Ward and Board Member Gonzalez. Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: On the last page, 10,772 calls for service. What does that mean?

Ward: Calls for service would be dispatch calls, agency assist calls, self-initiated calls where an officer is just driving by and seeing a violation, and CARFS, which are the Commissioner Action Request Forms for Doña Ana County.

Ellins: Okay. What do you attribute the increase this year for the Return to Owner statistics?

Ward: Actually I attribute it to the hard work of the department. We have a policy in our department that if we can safely return an animal to the owner in the field we do so. From years back we have new officers who really don't know any other way but to return them in the field. They don't know old
habits I guess you could say, so this is all they know is this is what we do is we return them in the field, if we can safely do so.

Ellins: Has there been a noticeable increase in microchipping which would add to this statistic?

Ward: Yes, I believe so.

Ellins: Okay. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. And thank you Ms. Ward. Any other questions? Yes Mr. Macias.

Macias: Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate the County's department and the efforts that they've made. I think the statistics are significant in terms of the improvement. And I want to congratulate both of our Officers and encourage Officer Hulsey to not let Officer Adams win the most return a second year in a row. Thank you Mr. Chair.

Ward: Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Macias. I think healthy competition can be a very productive thing. Thank you all very much. We appreciate the report and the good work being done in the County ACO Office.

Ward: Thank you.

Smith: All right, thank you. Do we have someone from the City today?

Dollahon: Mr. Chairman. I made outreach to the Animal Control Chief and I haven't heard back from him.

Smith: All right. Well thank you Board Member Dollahon. We'll certainly weave them in later if they show up.

**B. Shelter Statistics and Activities/Educational and Spay-Neuter Initiatives - Clint Thacker**

Smith: Then our next item on the agenda is the Shelter statistics and activities. Director Thacker.

Thacker: Thank you, before I turn the time over, I would like to turn the time over to Mike Kinney, Project Manager for the City to give us a quick report on the building that's going on right now at the facility.
Kinney: Good morning. Mr. Chairman, Board Members. My name is Mike Kinney. I'm with the City of Las Cruces obviously the Public Works section and Contracts Administration. And I'm the Project Manager overseeing the construction for the administrative addition at the Animal Services Center. If you've driven by there, you've probably seen that there's obviously the structure is going up. As far as the progress of the project we are currently about 60% to 70% done, as far as the structure is concerned. We are within budget. Since the last Board meeting we've had an issue arise on the exterior of the building it has to do with the sidewalks that need to go in place. We're working through to resolve that. That should not affect the interior work. Initially the interior work was hoping to get it finished on a portion of the new lobby etc, get that done where the existing administrative staff could move into that new section by the middle of this month. Well that's not going to happen. We have had some delays, in fact not insurmountable delays, but primarily were related to the holidays. And as of yesterday the contractor was still awaiting the construction industry's division who's the building inspector to approve some of the electrical work and the plumbing work before they finish putting in the drywall. So once that gets done, they're expecting any day now and then they'll be able to finish the drywall.

So right now the finish of the interior work, at least to the point where the administrative staff can move into the new section and then the contractor can go back into the old section and finish up the interior work. We've split it into phases. We're expecting that by the end of this month. The main thing we're trying to concentrate on right now, not that we're leaving things hanging, but is to get that interior work done to where we can move the staff and get the interior work finished and then finish up on the exterior work.

Smith: That's an important part of the project. Thank you Mr. Kinney. Any questions for Mr. Kinney? Board Member Gonzalez.

Gonzalez: Yes, in regards you said last time that we met that you guys would be through by February, but now there are some delays now. Now it's going to be into March the finishing of the building.

Kinney: Well the substantial completion date, which means substantial completion means it's basically ready for the user to use is presently scheduled for February 24th contractually. Realistically I think that we're probably going to be pushing that into March.

Gonzalez: So are we thinking that we'll still be within budget going into March? You'll stay within budget maybe?

Kinney: Yes, right now we are still within budget.
Gonzalez: Okay. Thank you.

Smith: Certainly. Thank you Board Member Gonzalez. Any other questions for Mr. Kinney? All right Mr. Kinney thank you. That certainly relates to some of the things that we talked about at facilities and many of us have driven by, a couple of us have gone in and are impressed that that is moving along and looking so good. Thank you. All right, Mr. Thacker.

Thacker: Good morning Board.

Smith: Good morning.

Thacker: Thank you. Today for the Director's report we'll start off with some shelter statistics. In 2008 our intake 465 dogs, 224 cats, 11 others for a total of 700 animals. Some of our intake versus 2017 the same time period, 2017 had 767 and 2018 we had 700. In our industry this is pretty much a straight wash as far as the same. It's so close if it's under that hundred mark we usually just call it the same amount of intake.

December outcomes, we had 261 adoptions, 103 reclaims, which is owners coming and getting their animals. We had 122 animals rescued, which is animals taken by specific rescue entities throughout the nation, where we send them out to, so these are specified groups generally and they are a 501(c)(3) and they have more time to get these animals out into good homes and hold them for longer. Some of the rescues, it's called foster based, and foster is when you take an animal, you don't adopt it but you take it just to give more room for other animals to come in. So we had 122 go out to rescues. We euthanized 186 animals and that's 26.6% that came in that were euthanized with the intake. And the live release rate is the other number, percentage of animals that leave the shelter alive that come in so 72.5% total of the animals that came in in December left alive.

Now this compares to 2017 of the same time period. In 2018 we did much more adoptions 261, reclaims again owners coming in to get their animals 103, and rescued; see in 2017 there is a huge jump and that is, we believe it's because 2017 when I first came on in November/December time, we really opened up the flood gates for all the rescues to come back that were not allowed to rescue before, to come in and take animals. We had a euthanasia rate of 11.6% in 2017. In 2018 we have 26.6%, live release rate 88.88%, and 2018 is 72.5%, so we did dip down a little bit.

Smith: Mr. Thacker if I can stop you there just because we have new members of the Board. This is a lot of the crux of what we were talking about when we're talking about the Animal Services Center and I just want to be sure that if there's any questions or aspects to this that need clarification that we go ahead and catch that early. Yes, Board Member Eakman.
Eakman: If I could ask one right now. Of the cats that were euthanized how many were ear tipped?

Thacker: That I do not have the information for, but we can get it for you. That is included in our yearly annual report. It shows that if we did do trap, neuter, return program or community cat program what our live release rate would have been. So I can show you that in 2017 in our Annual Report.

Eakman: I will look forward to that, thank you.

Thacker: Okay.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Eakman. Any other questions? All right, Mr. Thacker, please. I'm sorry, Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: What were the main causes for the euthanasias?

Thacker: So euthanasia, the main causes is we medical, it could be not responding to treatments for the medical, it could be aggression, other reasons are the medical, aggression, overall health. So it's very rarely do we euthanize a healthy adoptable animal just for space.

Smith: And do we have a chart later on in your presentation that shows the reasons this time Mr. Thacker? I know sometimes we do, but that might be helpful to Board Member Ellins and Board Member Macias as we go forward.

Thacker: We do not have a list of the reasons why, however and again in the Annual Report we have reasons why they're euthanized all broken down that we can do that with.

Smith: Okay.

Ellins: Well I'm a seven-year Board Member of Safe Haven so I have a dedicated interest in these issues.

Thacker: Absolutely. That's great. Thank you.

Ellins: Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. Thank you Mr. Thacker.

Thacker: So the current animal count at the facility right now is 677 animals at our facility compared to 595. So I think the years are wrong on that. It's
current, that's right. So January, 2018 is 677 animals, and current now is 595. I apologize.

We have a volunteer program at the center that we love and the volunteers we could not do it without them. Here's a picture of a photo session going on for our 12 Dogs of Christmas. We did, again, our volunteers are priceless for what they do for us. Some of the hours that our volunteers put in, a total of 441 hours and volunteers were 265 that we have currently on the books right now. Those are some hours that they used. The biggest one of note is the Farmers and Petco adoptions. The incredible help that we get there, we would not be able to go to those off-site locations if it wasn't for the volunteers that help out. They walk dogs, answer questions, and get animals the attention that they need there. Same thing with the Pet's Barn and Petco, the cat care teams we have cats that are housed there, so they go in and clean the cats, feed the cats and make sure their information is up-to-date. County Cats are the cats that are at the County Building and fabulous program there. Did you know, I'll speak to the City representatives right now, that it's been proven that having an animal decreases stress? So the County lets you rent for a small amount of time, a cat that you can take back to your office and love it and pet it and then you can take it back. So I'm just saying you should think about that in the City as well.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Thacker. I think that the people of the County have certainly been lauding the benefits of that being there for a few years now and certainly Becky at the entrance to the County Building has been quite an advocate for that. Thank you.

Thacker: So fosters, currently 47 families have 96 animals. And again a foster is an individual that comes and takes an animal from the center that they're not adopting it, they're just holding on to it and sometimes these animals could be injured and they need a safe place to recover, they could be sick and need a safe place to get better, or they could just be the person really liked the animal and wanted to hold on to it for a little bit and then the person still has the responsibility to take the animal to all of the off-site locations like Petco and PetSmart and Farmers Market. Currently 47 people have 96 animals in foster. Now surrender to foster is a little bit different. That's when somebody comes in to surrender their animal to the center saying, "I can't care for it any more or I don't want this animal anymore". And when we come back and say, "If you can hold on to the animal, we'll contact you when we have time or space for that animal or these animals to come in." So currently one family has four animals. That generally happens with mom and puppies that we try to get them to care for them and then we can send those puppies out to rescues. Here are some of our dogs and cats.

So our spay and neuter initiatives; currently we have 165 animals in the Foster to Adopt Program. Foster to Adopt Program is where an
animal that has not yet been sterilized gets adopted by a family. And then that adoption is not finalized until they bring the animal back to the center or to their own doctor to get sterilized and then they finish the paperwork and pay the remaining fees. So that's the Foster to Adopt Program. So currently 165 animals in that program. We are whittling away at this number. I believe last month it was 200 it was over 200 last month. So we want to get this number down to zero and focus on the animals in our center being sterilized prior to even being adopted and that's what we are working on.

The surgeries in December 2018 were 132 and it consisted of 64 for the general public, and we include our rescue organizations in this. So Cherished K-9, Forever Homes, and Broken Promises are all fabulous rescues that we work with and they bring animals in during that time for sterilization. And also the Community Cat Program, so 68 of those went out sterilized. Public, 132 public.

Smith: Mr. Thacker. Hold on just a minute please.
Thacker: Yes.
Smith: Yes. Board Member Ellins. You're going to have to push the button again. Thank you Board Member Gonzalez.
Ellins: Is that the feral cat program?
Thacker: Yes it is.
Ellins: Okay, thank you.
Thacker: So the public 132, adoptive is 113, shelter animals is 128, total of 373 enclosed surgeries also included the cryptorchid, the pregnant, the eye enucleations, amputations, and laceration repairs for that.

Some of our initiatives that we do; visitors at the center we have for the adoption office people specifically came in was a total of 1,484. Over 1,100 of those are people looking to adopt animals; 233 for the medical; and then other reasons. So let me back up a little bit. When somebody comes into the center they have to sign in and then they have to state why they're there. So the number you're seeing there is a general number. It's not exact because some people; one might have a husband and wife that come in and only one of them sign, might have wife and husband and the whole family looking for adoption, or mom and kids, so that number is much higher than the number there. This was just a hard count of what actually signed.

This is on the reclaim area of the shelter. In other words, people looking for their lost animals, so 435 came in for that, 109 found a stray animal that they needed to give over to the center for that. And then the
other big number there is 248 for medical reasons. For our vaccines that
we do we vaccinate upon intake or when the animal comes into the center
we vaccinate. And then if they adopt the animal and their vaccines are not
taken care of yet, we will finish off that round of vaccines for them. That's
included in the adoption program. So that's why that return to medical.
Also if anything if is adopted, if our Medical Director deems something
that's adoptable, but has a medical condition, then we'll also treat that
medical condition so they can bring the animal back. So that's why there's
that larger number for that. Total visitors are 2,530 in the shelter in one
day or in one month.

So another thing that we're doing that's new is we are doing
Facebook live videos, and we're doing a lot of Facebook live videos. We
have fun with it. We do the animal, the Pet of the Week, if we get a cute
bunch of puppies in we'll post those. You see my face on there. I like to
do a walk around update of the center of the construction that's going on.
We're going to be doing some pretty hard line ones that are coming up
too. For instance, the beginning line is going to be "Do you want to see
what an over-populated shelter looks like?" and we're going to walk
through the Shelter and it's going to be an eye opener for Doña Ana
County and people there because we've done things to bring that to the
head or to the front sight and we want to continue to do that. One of the
things we've done is we are posting our stats on Facebook. Those stats
are seen by thousands and thousands of people. I get calls from other
directors saying "Holy cow, I can't believe you're doing that." It's not all
about transparency. It's about bringing the awareness of our situation.
We are slowly building the infrastructure to be able to fix the issue and
that's the important part, is we can't jump into this and start promoting
sterilizations when there's no foundation to get the amount of sterilizations
that people are going to request. My space is severely limited on how to
handle that huge intake of animals of public sterilizations. So we have a
base set plan. We just need to let the plans go forward and develop. It's
going to take years before we see a huge reduction in the amount of
animals in Doña Ana County. Some of them are going to be very hard
decisions and we are already making some of those hard decisions, but
it's ones that we have to continue to move forward with. So we're doing all
we can to bring that awareness and we're seeing it work. We have Animal
Control Officers are working with us, you see the incredible numbers the
County is posting of returning to field. City Animal Control Officers are
doing the same, the best that they can. I know the ACO Supervisor Gino
is working hard with his staff to be able to figure out and define the RTO,
the Return to Owner in the field and to get those out and get them back to
their owners. So it's a team effort that we all need to work together in
order for this plan to come together. And that's what we're attempting to
do by doing all this.

Our continued community outreach is we have great relationships
with radio stations, 101Gold, Magic105, Zia Country. I was actually able
to be on Zia Country a couple of weeks ago, had a blast, a lot of fun, talked about their Santa Paws Program that they had where they had just tons of donations come in for the animals at the Animal Services Center. Wilson Binkley continues to be an incredible help for the Animal Services Center. The cover that you have on the New Member Packet that I gave to the new members was designed by Wilson Binkley. I sent them an email and they said, "Yes, we're on it." And a day later I had it. So it's incredible what they can do for us. Dog'Crucés Magazine, America Classifieds and our Facebook and also DACHS Senior Program, all continue to be great partners. And the DACHS Senior Program, DACHS is Doña Ana County Humane Society, and any person that qualifies as a senior citizen their adoption is covered to a certain point financial-wise. So we take a picture of the individual that qualifies as a senior with the dog or the cat that they adopt and we send it to the Doña Ana County Humane Society and then they reimburse us for a portion of that adoption fee. So that's a great program for them.

Smith: Mr. Thacker. Since there are varying categories for seniors, which age group does this include do you know? Some of us are seniors at 50, 55, 60, 65.

Thacker: I once made a person cry if I asked them if they qualified as a senior citizen so I shy away from the number, but it is 65 years old.

Smith: Thank you.

Thacker: So another community outreach that we're doing and this is included in one of our Facebook videos that we did, is if you remember the cold spell that we had at night the temperatures were down to the early 20's so we acted fast. I know that El Paso Animal Control was getting even colder temperatures than we were getting so they were able to relocate some of their outside animals into a whole warehouse is where they relocated. We didn't have that luxury nor that amount of time, so we took our intake area, which is the outside area of the center and we enclosed it in the tarps and we have heaters inside those areas. Significantly took the chill away from those animals. We put it out on Facebook to accept donations. We had propane tanks delivered to us. We had heaters that you screw on to the top of the propane tanks delivered to us. It was a great response. We had one person, a dear friend of the Shelter, call and paid $100 worth in propane refills and that was one day with all of our propane that we were putting out. So that was a huge help. It's great to have a community that is willing to help in some way. So we appreciate that.

The staff also loves; one the animals are getting care, but also they have a warm place for them to be as well when they're dealing with the animals. It was so cold at this time that when we would draw up the, we found we were drawing up the vaccines that they are starting to crystallize
when you would pull them out through the syringe, because the needle was so cold and so thin that the cold effects it so fast, so the staff had to, you have to keep those refrigerated, but not to the point where they are freezing. So we had to keep an eye on that and well balanced, so they were okay when they were giving the vaccines. We did work on that and we responded well to that.

Some of our cats and dogs that are in the shelter. You know just really quick, I want to point out that sometimes people think that Center animals or animals from the Animal Services Center, there's a reason why they're there. They're broken and there's something wrong with them and it's just not the case. Generally these animals are healthy. They are just there because somebody didn't come and pick them up. They're there because somebody didn't want them. It's incredible the beautiful animals that we have at the center and I urge everybody before buying an animal, a puppy online or going to a pet store, to come see the animals at the Mesilla Valley Animal Center. You will fall in love I promise you. And that's the end of my slide show that I have. Any questions?

Smith: Thank you Mr. Thacker. Questions? Board Member Gonzalez.

Gonzalez: In regard to your volunteers, have you got new volunteer workers helping you?

Thacker: Do we have new ones?

Gonzalez: Yes and expansion of it.

Thacker: I would have to say that "yes" we get volunteer applications every single day.

Gonzalez: What's the total right now?

Thacker: I believe it was 265 our total volunteer numbers right now.

Gonzalez: And you guys are coping pretty well with that group?

Thacker: We always like more.

Gonzalez: Of course.

Thacker: People like to sign up and they like to say that they volunteer however we've never seen them. So it may say 265, but really I would say a core group of a solid 30 to 40 people that really help us.

Gonzalez: Are you guys going to promote that out there for advertise it for help?
Thacker: Yes. We have a volunteer coordinator. That's her job to coordinate those efforts and to recruit volunteers.

Gonzalez: Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Gonzalez. Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: The Dog Enrichment Program, would you tell me what that is? I think I know, but tell me what it is.

Thacker: ACM Dog Enrichment, so at the Center we have, and that number is going to grow and I'm going to tell you why, but volunteers come out they walk dogs, they socialize with the dogs, they do anything they can.

Ellins: I got it.

Thacker: We are going to be doing, I believe I told the Board last month, but the State of New Mexico was selected to get free training from Let them Play, this is an organization that does, it's called Play Groups. What you do is you bring dogs out into a large area and you let them play and you let them have fun. An hour worth of a playgroup is the same as a three-hour walk to the mind of a dog because you can imagine how boring it is sitting in a cell pretty much, in a kennel and they don't get that mind exercise. But being with other dogs they get that pack exercise and so we'll be receiving that at the end of January for free.

Ellins: I take my dogs to doggy day care.

Thacker: Excellent.

Ellins: I understand. It strikes me though that four is a very very low number.

Thacker: Very low number yes. One reason is that is because anybody who wants to walk a dog has to go through a training because shelter dogs are different than a dog that gets to go walk every single day. These dogs are ecstatic to get out. They're hyper, they're jumping all over the place. So it is that they have to go, they have to sit, people have to come and sit through an hour training to walk large dogs and that is both classroom and it's also hands on training for that.

Smith: And Mr. Thacker I would like to point out to Board Member Ellins that one of the discussions that we've had with the GO Bonds that we passed at the City was that one of them would be going towards park expansion or opportunities. And one of the things that we've talked about is having another dog park, a larger one, and possibly locating it adjacent to the Animal Services Center so that that could be used for those activities as
well as being located where other people can access it because that is such an important part of what they do, but also what we do with our animals. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Thacker. Other questions or comments? All right seeing none. Thank you Mr. Thacker.

C. Committee Reports

1. Finance - David Dollahon, Committee Chair

Smith: We’ll go on then to the committee reports. The first one is Finance, Board Member Dollahon, oh I'm sorry Mr. Saffell.

Saffell: Good morning Mr. Chair, Members of the Board. My name is Josh Saffell and on behalf of the Finance Department of the City of Las Cruces I would like to present the unaudited financials for December 2018.

Here on the balance sheet if you look at your packet that would be page one, the statement of net position. Here we're showing cash of around $408,000 and a receivable of about $89,000. Total liabilities in the general fund are at $73,000, and the overall fund balance is at $424,000, with $123,000 of this is unassigned, and $250,000 is to meet our required reserve.

Moving on to our operations, this is page two in your packet, the statements of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance. Here we can see in the general fund we're showing about $1,591,000 in revenue and $1,388,000 in expenditures, which gave us a net change to fund balance in the positive of $203,000. We can also note that the revenues are at 54.6% of budget and expenditures are at 46.2%. Our parameter for this time of year would be about 50% so it's nice to see our revenues are a little higher and our expenditures are a little below that so that's good to see.

Here we show our actual revenues compared to the budget. The actual revenues of $1.6 million.

Smith: Mr. Saffell for those who are new to this. This is on page four of the packet that we have. Thank you.

Saffell: Yes, thank you. So again here we're showing the revenue sources. We see that the majority of that revenue is coming from the City and the County as part of the Joint Powers Agreement, so that's where the primary sources of revenue are from.

On our next slide, this will be page five in your packets, this is our expenditure comparison. We can see again that our parameter was about 50%. The majority of expenses are below that. The only one that's really high that we can see would be repairs and maintenance is at 61.3% of budget. That was due to a necessary vehicle repair as well as some
construction or rather destruction of the infirmary to remove that to make way for construction there.

Now if we look at our capital projects fund, the capital projects fund shows cash of $705,000 and a liability of $77,000. That liability is actually revenue that we received in advance for a grant from PetSmart. Since we received the revenue in advance we can't recognize it, we have to recognize it as a liability until we actually spend those funds and then we can recognize it as revenue.

We have restricted fund balance of $50,000, that’s for an amount that was donated for specific construction to the cat room. And then committed to the construction project of $578,000. That will conclude the December Financial report, are there any questions?

Smith: Thank you Mr. Saffell. Questions for Mr. Saffell? Yes, Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: What is the Fiscal Year?

Saffell: The Fiscal Year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. Thank you Mr. Saffell. Seeing no other questions. Thank you Mr. Saffell.

Dollahon: Mr. Chairman.

Smith: Yes, Board Member Dollahon.

Dollahon: The Finance Committee did not have regular meeting due to the Holidays and conflicting calendars. We have our next Finance Committee meeting next week. That will be myself and staff and Councilor Eakman. We have Board appointments next month for Committee appointments unless somebody wants to volunteer. And we'll need to also discuss readjusting the schedule once we know who the other representative from the subcommittee will be, but we can do that in February. But we're looking for a volunteer from the County for next week's meeting. Also we will be presenting at the February meeting the formal adoption of the ASCMV CAFR because that has been authorized for release and adoption and then that will adjust our trial balances as part of that.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Dollahon. Volunteers of course are important at every level. Yes, Board Member Eakman.

Eakman: Yes, if I might. The previous member was Commissioner Garrett, a very valuable member, and so we'd really be looking forward to someone joining us. Thank you.
Smith: Thank you Board Member Eakman.

2. Executive - Kassandra Gandara, Committee Chair

Smith: Chair Gandara is not here to give the Executive Committee Report, but I will just share one or two things that I’ve got and then Mr. Thacker if you can think of something else from our meeting on the Executive. But one of the things that came up is that we have a situation with the HVAC that is going to require $570,000 for total replacement. So one of the things that we’re asking that the Finance Committee perhaps take on is a question of how that might be approached. Also when the budgeting for the new addition to the building was undertaken apparently furniture was not included in that discussion, so that might also be another thing. Yes Mr. Dollahon.

Dollahon: Mr. Chairman. Clint brought those at the Executive Committee’s request to me late Friday/early Monday and I was working on them with City Facility staff. We are waiting on a quote for FF&E, Furniture, Fixers and Equipment, and I don’t know if you have that yet. Okay, so we should have that information for the equipment and furnishings by next week’s Finance Committee meeting and then I have City staff looking for the HVAC situation in the back of the building.

Smith: Excellent, thank you Mr. Dollahon. Mr. Thacker can you think of anything else specific from our Executive Committee Meeting? No. All right thank you.

3. Facilities - Greg Smith, Committee Chair

Smith: Then I will move on and report on the Facilities Committee meeting. As Mr. Kinney mentioned earlier, there are some date aspects to completion of the addition and the remodel and so I won’t go into those because some of those have changed a little bit since our meeting. But we do have the firm that has been working on the scope of work document is getting that together and meetings should start at the end of this month for the RFP that will be going out for, I didn’t take very good notes because I’m not sure exactly, what were we saying Mr. Thacker that was going to be for?

Thacker: I actually had the opportunity to meet the firm that’s handling all of the.

Smith: It’s coming back to me now.

Thacker: Yes. Just yesterday I had a meeting with the firm ECM I believe that’s handling all of the GO Bond programs. So then what they’re going to do is they’re going to look over the RFP and that’s going to be going out and
then meetings to discuss the RFP start the end of this month. And the
RFP is for architectural design not for construction at this point.

Smith: Thank you.

Thacker: I am very confident when with meeting with them. They were speaking
names that I love to hear you know Specific Exhaust, Air Exchange, and
they had architects already in mind that they contacted and I looked them
up and they are all specialized in animal centers. So I'm very very happy
to see those things.

Smith: Excellent. And Tony Trevino will be our staff member from the City who
will be in charge of that project, but yes it goes to the GO Bond. So that
will be the new building that we'll be looking at constructing in the next
couple of years that will then take much of the operation that's in the
current building and move it to a new location on the property.

Dollahon: Mr. Chairman.

Smith: The kennel area, the lower area where there was previously a building
that was being used, that's been torn down and the slab is to be poured
and we're expecting the kennels to be complete by the end of March?
Was that correct?

Thacker: I'd probably push that more to April.

Smith: Okay.

Thacker: I heard from the City and the City is doing the surveying on Monday and
then after that they have to get contact also another quote with civil
engineers to look for a slab design because it has to have the proper pitch
and drainage and also sewer connection things like that, but we are going
forward and ordering the kennels because they're an eight-week out
process lead time. We have to do that, so look forward to that.

Smith: And one other thing that you may have mentioned to the Finance
Committee was the need for temporary storage, maintenance and
recovery rooms. It had been suggested that those might be done in
shipping containers as a way of getting them in place quickly and the
thought was that it would probably cost at least $45,000 to put all those in
place. Mr. Dollahon was that shared with you?

Dollahon: Mr. Chairman. That was shared with me and we'll discuss it at next
week's Finance Committee meeting. I did want to further expand on
Clint's comments related to the RFP. So ECM is the City's GO Bond
performance manager for the overall GO Bond projects, and we have four
questions under the GO Bond. They will be aiding the City in selecting both the architectural firm for the ASCMV and the fire station and other projects as well as the ultimate design, the contractor once the design is done.

That RFP is evaluated through an internal committee of staff. Mr. Thacker and his staff will be part of that process as will representatives from our Public Works Department and the ECM and myself. And so that will be occurring next Thursday. That is a public meeting. But then once the RFP is issued, which should be in relatively short order after that meeting, it is a confidential issue and there’s no discussion without bidders or contractors or anyone talking to our Purchasing Department. So I’m thinking we’re going to have that out on the street at least four weeks if not six for respondents to come back, so it will be sometime around the first of March before we have that selection process well underway.

Smith: Thank you for those clarifications Mr. Dollahon. The last thing I have is that the stucco is expected to be going up soon, perhaps this week. Has that changed or has that been moved back also?

Thacker: That’s changed as well yes. It’s going to be a little bit longer on that.

Smith: All right. Well as we see the structure, the shape, the insulation board and those things going up we’re getting a good sense of how that’s going to look. And the stucco or course will help seal that up and make it look appropriate. Mr. Bryce did you have something you wanted to add?

Bryce: Frank Bryce, President Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Don’t usually get involved in the financials too much, but it surprised me to hear, and I think we might be able to get a clarification, that the City was supposed to pay for the removal of that old building. The one that was such a problem, the infirmary, but according to what I just heard it’s coming out of your budget. I don’t think that’s what the City agreed to do and so I had asked him out in the hall, I think they’re ready to give us a clarification. But the City said they would pay for removal of that building and then the rest of the work would come out of the Shelter budget. I just wanted to find out what the situation was on that. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Bryce. Mr. Thacker.

Thacker: Yes, the amount of money, the $13,900 was given to the Center between the budget increase that I requested. So yes it did come from the City and County and it was out of our budget, but it was an increase.

Smith: Okay. Mr. Bryce does that explain how that worked to you? You can nod your head if it does or.
Bryce: Frank Bryce. It doesn't clarify what I heard in the hallway. If Mr. Thacker, is he saying that the money was given by the City to pay for that so it increased the budget and it is covered by the City? If that's the way it's understood then I do understand it. It was not said in the hallway about that.

Smith: Okay, well Mr. Thacker and Mr. Dollahon are probably going to able to clarify this more easily than I will, but my understanding of what Mr. Thacker said was that there was an increase from both the City and the County and that that increase included the $13,900 that was needed to demolish the existing structure, the old wooden structure there. Mr. Dollahon did you have any clarification on that?

Dollahon: Mr. Chairman. Clint and I will discuss it and we'll follow-up. I hate getting old. My memory is changing so or fading, so we'll follow-up.

Smith: Just wait until you're a senior. All right, thank you Mr. Dollahon, any other questions regarding the Facilities Report?

D. Zero in 7 Update

Smith: All right. Then Ms. Gilbert I believe you are going to share with us the Zero in Seven Update.

Gilbert: Good morning. I'm Jean Gilbert, Secretary for the Coalition for Pets and People with our January report. Here is the mission statement for the coalition and it was adopted in March of 2017. I'll give you a minute to read it. Here’s a listing of community organizations that the Coalition represents.

Here is a listing of the Coalition activities for 2018 and I'll quickly go over them. We held at least 12 meetings, probably more that included meetings for the public and those of course are meetings with representatives of community organizations and agencies. We've held committee meetings and we've held special meetings. The Coalition has done 12 reports like this to the ASCMV Board. And I can ask David have there been about nine animal care task force meetings this past year? So, we've attended those or there's been representation by the Coalition at all of those meetings.

We've held four social dinners this year, so we've held them pretty much quarterly. We're actively involved in microchipping, whether it's with ACES, Action Programs for Animals, Tails has held some check-the-chip events as well. The Coalition held two information and outreach tables, one was at the City Volunteer Fair and the other one was at the Dog'Crucos Pet Expo. We've had two radio appearances on the Community Radio Station, KTAL and we had great representation at the fostering forum. A couple of things I've overlooked that I didn't get
included on this slide unfortunately is that Tom Townsend was with the Coalition was the administrator for the Community Cat Grant and the agent for that was APA and that was for the spay and neuter this past year of 500 cats, and the majority of those were feral cats. And then one other thing that was overlooked on this listing is that the Coalition was actively involved in promotion of getting the GO Bond passed. If I'm moving too quickly or if there's questions, please let me know.

Ellins: I have a question Mr. Chairman.

Smith: All right thank you. Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: To what extent did Safe Haven participate in these activities?

Gilbert: Safe Haven was one of the speakers at the Fostering Forum and that was Tricia Quillen. Tricia Quillen hosts animal affairs radio and there will be a slide on that in a minute. That's the second bullet from the bottom there. And it was Tricia Quillen who invited the Chair Rick Hahn and for a radio appearance and she also invited me for another session. So the short answer to that is very involved, yes.

Ellins: Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. Thank you Ms. Gilbert.

Gilbert: Here are some upcoming activities and obviously this can't be a complete listing. We list them on Facebook and we also post flyers as they come to us. And I'll give you a minute to read these. The Coalition will hold a meeting Tuesday, January 29th and we're meeting at the Coop Community Room that will be at 6:30 p.m. And SNAP has an upcoming spay/neuter clinic as does APA with the vaccination and microchip in Dona Ana County.

I'll start now on the report for The Humane Society of Southern New Mexico and I'm on the board and a humane educator with HSSNM. And the picture on the left is the Boys and Girls Club. We're in our 11th year of working with the Boys and Girls Club. Those are some of the dog ambassadors and humane educators that work in our program. The photo on the right our program Forever Friends is in a lot of the schools and this is a picture at Highland Elementary with their kindergarten class. There were about 12 sessions that were Holiday related and 16 that were not, so there were 28 sessions in last month. Here you'll see a breakdown of the number of humane education sessions as well as some of our other stats for the Humane Society. Our pet helpline, we get a huge range of calls and Frank Bryce can speak to that, but these are a couple of animals that came to the helpline. One is a dog here, Vagabond, whose being sponsored by one of our board members and then this cat, I think you
remember meeting Jeff Murphy who's on our Board of Directors and this situation came to him, this cat was hung from a tree by its leg and rescued so it's very very disturbing. But anyway, there's a breakdown of our stats, adoptions, pet helpline calls, humane education sessions. We have a Cans for Critters Program that we're very proud of. We've raised over $8,000 since 2012. And also very proud of our microchip numbers as well.

And I'll start the APA Report. Here are APA help pet photos with Santa during the month of December of children and this happens with a fair amount of frequency and of course we can't provide pictures for all of them, but here is one example of children that have donated pet food supplies and things in lieu of getting birthday gifts. Addison Vigil is a volunteer. She started a promotion for APA getting supplies and things over the month of December and here she's shown with Last Litter Inn puppies and there will be a slide on the Last Litter Inn puppies coming up soon here. Here are APA's numbers for their intake, adoptions, microchips and transfers. And these are just a few of the animals that were adopted out of the 53 for the month. I put already kitties so we don't confuse the person from the cat. And APA this was in the paper. It was a wonderful story on APA building these feral cathouses and Rachel Snyder was one of the main leaders of that project and they built 30 with funds that they had raised for that. And all of those have gone to feral cats for the winter.

Here are SNAP's dates for upcoming clinics. They've held one already for the month of January and they'll be holding another one this month. I had mentioned that Tricia Quillen who is with Safe Haven, she is shown with the glasses in the photo on the left and she hosts animal affairs radio program on KTAL and she's pictured there interviewing Rachel Snow with SNAP. Dr. Starr is the mobile clinic that SNAP uses for their clinics and they average approximately 25 surgeries per clinic. And here are the numbers that Sandra Hendrix who is the financial manager with SNAP provided us for this slide. I'll give you a minute to look at those numbers. Of the 1,500-plus vouchers issued, 269 of those were used at the SNAP clinics.

Okay Cat's Meow report, they had five adoptions in the month of December. And they really had a banner year for adoptions because with this number and the others they had over 80 adoptions for the year with cats, which I think is totally amazing. Cat's Meow has plans for 2019 and one of those is to add a condo to their main room there at their facility. They intend to become more visible in the community and one of their long-range goals is to buy the facility where they currently rent and the address there is posted with their hours and phone number. These are some of the kitties that are waiting for adoption. Cat's Meow and project Safe a Kitten and some of the other cat organizations affiliated with this will be holding their very successful Kitty Glitter and this could be like the
third year for it. But I know I like to go every year and I believe I'm sporting a bracelet from Kitty Glitter too.

Here are some photos from Safe Haven. And Dolly was one of their adoptions during the month of December. And Lady Belle, who is pictured in the middle photo, I'm guessing she might be maybe part chocolate lab, anyway she's pictured in her new home where she has two other canines as companions.

Safe Haven received some alumni pictures during the holidays and this is an especially great one because Lacie, the blonde dog laying on the floor, and Daisy who is on the right, she looks like she could be border terrier, they are both Safe Haven adoptions and they're in a family with five canines total. Safe Haven was interviewed by KFOX to do a news feature on the importance of recycling and so that interview took place at their thrift store. And of course, Safe Haven has many other activities. They are involved in humane education and I know Mr. Ellins could speak to that.

Broken Promises had about 80 TNRs this year, trap, neuter and return, and on this slide you'll actually see three. And I know the photo on the left is a little hard to see the calico kitten, but right next to it you'll see some black fur. They actually caught two kittens in one trap and they caught three within the space of a couple of days. This is just an example of their amazing TNR work. Broken Promises is mostly involved with cats, but in the month of December they rescued a Shepherd dog and they rescued him just in time before the snow came.

Broken Promises has shared this information about our neighbor Companion Animal Action Team, they're located in Williamsburg near T or C and I thought it was important to include it as a slide. They will be holding a spay/neuter clinic there on January 15th and they've had a very successful year providing low-cost services to Sierra County and emergency vet care and food for low-income pet owners. Members of the Animal Advocates organizations here in Las Cruces do a fair amount of networking with this organization. And if you need more information, I know that SNAP has it as well as Broken Promises.

Tails from the Shelter, I had shown earlier in the slide that was the one on APA, showed the two Last Litter Inn pups that were pictured with Addison Vigil, well here's pictures of them in action and Twix and Butterfinger also known at the candy bar brothers, they were dumped in a box and they found foster care with Tails. And Tails does and incredible amount of transport and rescue and foster among many other things.

Doña Ana County Humane Society's report, and I know Clint talked about some of this, but this is their Animal Relief Fund Program here. They helped 273 low-income families during the year 2018 and there is a picture of just some of the animals that they helped this past year.

And this is the vouchers for the Senior Program that Clint talked about with photos of some of the pets that were adopted that were sponsored or partially sponsored by this program. And the other program
that Doña Ana County Humane Society does is they do their Ruff to
Ready Program and they help shelter animals that need behavior training
and so there were 31 dogs helped this past year through that program and
some of the dogs do come from the community and these are animals that
could be in danger of being taken to the shelter so it's an excellent pet
retention program.

Cherished K-9, Snickers is pictured, looks maybe to be chocolate
lab also, rescued by Cherished K-9s from a high-kill animal shelter and
adopted into a loving family. And this is just an example of some of their
many many adoptions that they do. Here is a photo of Zippy who is a
dachshund who was pulled from the Animal Services Center by Cherished
K-9s and adopted recently. Cherished K-9s is also involved in a lot of
rescue and transport work, and this is a picture of four adults and 12
puppies that were, and this is during the month of December, that were on
their way to rescues in Oregon. And the puppies some of them were born
shortly after their mom’s were pulled from the animal shelter, so Cherished
K-9s does a lot of work in helping pregnant mom dogs.

Forever Homes Animal Rescue, these are some of the dogs that
they transported during the month of December to Northern New Mexico
to find homes and the Las Cruces coordinator is Jamie Jones. They do a
lot of heavy lifting. Forever Homes Animal Rescue reported just this first
week in January they transported 47 dogs and two cats. They’re home-
based in Alamogordo. Forever Homes Animal Rescue has also been
involved in the Deming situation with the Ruff Ruff Sanctuary. We
reported on it last month where approximately 80 dogs were removed
from this hoarding and eviction case. Muddy is a picture of a dog, pictured
on the right, who was placed in foster with Forever Homes Animal
Rescue. Approximately 40 of the dogs from the hoarding case are placed
with the Deming Animal Guardians with their Sunshine Haven Rescue.
So about 40 kennels have been dedicated to those dogs and so there are
many of those dogs awaiting adoption.

The Dog Park Coalition held a Holiday Dinner and Social the
middle of December at Los Mariachi’s Restaurant. And here are a couple
of photos from that event.

The Las Cruces Dog Park has ordered some agility equipment that
will be installed soon and the agility equipment will be something like this.
This is obviously not a picture of our dog park, but the type of equipment
that they’re expecting to receive. And in addition to providing a safe and
social environment for the dogs for exercise and play, the Coalition is also
involved in a lot of advocacy work here in Las Cruces and they also
advocated for the dogs in the previous slide from that Ruff Ruff Hoarding
Case.

The Las Cruces Pet Network advocates for animals through social
media and e-mail distribution and here are pictures of some animals that
we are trying to help. This mom dog and pups get into foster placement
and then these two found dogs, the shepherd and the lab, are dogs that
were found and that a resident in the community is holding to try to re-unite with the family. I believe that's the end of the presentation, if you have any questions or comments.

Smith: Thank you so much Ms. Gilbert. Questions, comments for Ms. Gilbert?

Dollahon: Jean don't forget about Last Litter.

Gilbert: Pardon?

Dollahon: Don't forget about the Last Litter.

Gilbert: Of course, thank you.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Dollahon.

Gilbert: I would have too. My question is how to get out of this? Do I go to escape?

Smith: Mr. Thacker to the rescue.

VIDEO PLAYED OF LAST LITTER INN.

Smith: Thank you Ms. Gilbert. And thank you to all those who participated in that effort. I believe Board Member Macias had a question is that correct? You looked like you had a thought bubble.

Macias: Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask perhaps some questions. I don't know if it was better placed to Ms. Gilbert or actually to Mr. Thacker. So just as a preface, if you would permit Mr. Chairman, let's see in my household there are three dogs, six canaries, a giant tortoise by the name of Hercules and 16 turtles, so obviously it's a house that welcomes all kinds of animals. One of my daughters worked for a number of years at Calista's Animal Hospital and so is very well connected with not only the staff at the Shelter, but a lot of the programs that lead to fostering animals. And so we were asked and accepted the invitation to foster, I think it was six kittens initially and so it was almost like taking care of babies. That was what it was reminiscent of, every three hours feeding, getting up through the night doing all of that, but ultimately all six of them died, even Moses who was the only one that we gave a name to because it was the largest and we thought it would have the greatest capacity to survive.

We fostered another group that were a little bit older kittens, and five or let's see, four out of the six survived and actually we worked to help get them all adopted, those that survived. But it struck me that, especially in the first litter that they were so diseased, there was almost no likelihood of survival, but yet they were fostered out. So I'm curious, and not
from a negative perspective, just how this influences some of the numbers that are presented to us in terms of where those litters or animals that are taken into some form of foster care, but that do not survive, where are those numbers? Because in reality it struck me from that experience that really it would have been better to have euthanized the animals rather than to have fostered and prolonged that period. And when we went back and had a discussion with the staff at the Animal Shelter we suggested why there wasn't a little bit more candor and a little bit more disclosure in terms of what was the likelihood of survival from all of the effort that was going to be put into caring for the animals. So when I hear Ms. Gilbert talk about, and I know that it's very positive and I'm not trying to be negative, very positive about everything that's going on, it strikes me that there has to be a certain population that technically don't make it into the listing of animals that were euthanized, but still did not survive. Where are those numbers and how significant is that issue?

Thacker: If I can ask, how long ago was that?

Macias: Just this past fall.

Thacker: Okay, so that was before or about the same time that our Medical Director came on, Dr. Baiz, and she has changed the way we do those types of things. Everything is evaluated by her before it leaves the door. So if that was the case, now they would be told that the mortality rate is very high for kittens, especially when there's no mom. It's very very high. The likelihood of them passing away is higher than for them to live and make it through without the mom. Also the sick and diseased is very worrisome because you would have never gotten them now. If you came in and said to foster these, they never would have been given to you if they were that bad and that diseased. They would have been euthanized, either that or a rescue be contacted for that, but they wouldn't be foster candidates.

Macias: Well let me suggest that whatever your current operation is, that's during the same timeframe that we did this fostering. So the question that I'm asking is, how pronounced and what kind of numbers, like those six kittens I believe that we took all of those that passed back to the shelter. And so how are those counted in your numbers? That's actually what my bottom line question is.

Thacker: And they would have been brought back into the Center, in other words in the Shelter software and they would have been "died in care" or "other" is how they would have been accounted for.

Macias: I didn't see that number. I didn't see a specific listing for that number in your presentation.
Thacker: Correct. Yes. We can show that for you if you would like to or an idea of it.

Macias: No, I'm just curious what.

Thacker: Bernice, am I mistaken as to where they would have been found?

Smith: Ms. Navarro maybe you should come to the microphone so we can have it on record thank you.

Navarro: The number that die in care, anything; that is shown in our annual report every year. Our monthly reports we have to only pull so much information. Otherwise we would be just overwhelmed with all of the specific numbers. Things like the euthanasia reasons, things like that, you see that information in our quarterly reports, but the final numbers of those is highlighted in each annual report. So we do disclose those numbers also, it's just we don't present them at every monthly meeting.

Macias: So and there isn't an idea of what number may be or what percentage or what it would add to the number that are euthanized, because I think the point is really we're losing a lot more animals than what people tend to look at the list of animals that are euthanized and they go, "Oh, we're losing that and that represents a certain percentage", but in reality, I'm under the impression that we lose far more and that it's a bigger problem than what perhaps sometimes is presented.

Thacker: Obviously it's an increase in numbers, but I wouldn't say it's much larger. We can be more THAN comfortable in presenting those numbers on a monthly basis, if that's something you would like to see for you a total, but I wouldn't say it's a huge increase for them.

Macias: Thank you. Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to note that although I haven't had these discussions with either of the two Commissioners that are here or actually there was a third one in the audience, but the County Manager is really looking at a far more aggressive manner of intervening out in the County and the unincorporated areas in terms of numbers of animals that are being taken into custody. A more aggressive approach to spay and neuter that we'll be presenting to the Commission in the hopefully not too distant future.

Smith: Well thank you Board Member Macias. Appreciate that, Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: Just to follow-up. You said that some of the animals are returned if they die in foster care to the Shelter so you can get an accurate count?
Thacker: Yes, the animals in foster care, the animals are still our property, so they have to be returned back. So the way our shelter software works is that we outcome them in foster care, and when they come back in we bring them back into the software as foster return and then outcome them again as a "died in care."

Ellins: Do the fosters always return?

Thacker: As far as I know, yes. They may not return the body to us, but they'll call and let us know that it's happened. If not, if the file goes untouched for a while, we'll contact them and we'll find out what happened to them.

Ellins: Okay, thank you.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. Board Member Gonzalez you looked like you were reaching for the button.

Gonzalez: Ms. Gilbert, what is your way of revenue, of running your care program?

Gilbert: Are you referring to the Coalition for Pets and People?

Gonzalez: The Zero in Seven.

Gilbert: The Coalition for Pets and People is basically an umbrella. We represent all the organizations here in Las Cruces. We are not a 501(c)(3), but we are like I say, an umbrella and any money that we do raise, we raise under the 501(c)(3) of the Humane Society, which is where our accounting is kept. I don't know, were you talking about a specific project or something for fundraising?

Gonzalez: No, just your overall, you updated so much activities going on and reaching out to the public, I was just wondering about your revenue. Conducting all your services and reaching out to the community. I was just wondering where you reach out for your revenue? Where does it come from you know?

Gilbert: Our work is with all of the organizations and so they are all 501(c)(3)s and they raise their own money. Just to say, Safe Haven does through their thrift store all the organizations have different means. Many of them raise their funds through events, special events.

Gonzalez: Well, thank you for what you do. It's gratifying that you really reach out to our community.

Gilbert: Thank you very much.
Gonzalez: Thank you very much.

Gilbert: I think we can be very proud of all the organizations here. They are all heavy lifters and work very very hard and it has certainly made a difference. I know I have been involved in the animal welfare community here in Las Cruces 35 years and the difference is huge. It really is.

Gonzalez: Well you're the hard rock of all of us, so good job.

Gilbert: Thank you

Gonzalez: Continue.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Gonzalez. Thank you Ms. Gilbert. Any other questions or comments? Mr. Bryce. And we will have a public comment period after this.

Bryce: Frank Bryce, President Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. I just thought it was a good opportunity to bring up the issue. On the Coalition, donations are made to us as a 501(c)(3) and we furnish the funds through them and we do it at no cost to help them. But all the other organizations, they run their own financials and donations and that sort of stuff and they keep track of them. There was a breakup of the community foundation and they had some other organizations that were special units or something to that order, and they got money and gave to them even though they were not 501(c)(3)s. So it's been kind of a mixed bag, so you might understand better where the money is coming from, but most of it is by each organization doing their own thing, but most of us cooperate with each other on special occasions. It's like the day before yesterday, just real quick, PetSmart donated a whole bunch of year-end stuff and Tails of the Shelter and myself and Broken Promises, we divided that stuff up and delivered it to Cat's Meow the stuff that's appropriate, so we do provide that sort of interagency type support. So some of the stuff that we do it's all donated quantities of stuff rather than dollar bills. Okay? But we do have a pretty good working system that can address the issues, especially over in Deming, a lot of people got involved in that issue. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you for the clarification Mr. Bryce. All right. Other questions for Ms. Gilbert or Mr. Thacker?

E. Best Friends Animal Society

Smith: The Best Friends Animal Society. Mr. Thacker do you want to help us understand about the great opportunity we're getting there?
Thacker: Yes. Thank you. Her presentation is gone though. Is there anybody in the booth that can look at that? So with me today is a Best Friends representative by the name of Jessica Vigos. Best Friends is a national wide, worldwide organization.

Smith: Mr. Thacker, if you'll click on the 110 there that might open up a folder that's useful. It looks like it's trying to open 1217.

Thacker: So Best Friends, a little bit of information on Best Friends. Best Friends Animal Society has been around for a very long time. They're based in Utah where their home base is in Kanab, Utah. They have a sanctuary there that assists and has multiple specialized animals that are both, you know ones that need the extra help and some that are perfectly healthy and just waiting for adoption. They have declared a no-kill type of call-out. They're successful in California in passing laws such as you can't buy a pet from a pet store anymore, it has to be a pet or the pet store has to get the pet from animal centers or animal shelters for that to happen.

Dollahon: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. Albert is working on it. We're having network issues. He's trying to grab it and move it to the local computer so I say we give him a couple of minutes.

Thacker: All right.

Dollahon: We may want to do something else on the agenda and come back to it?

Smith: All right. Thank you Mr. Dollahon. And yes we normally have a live broadcast I believe, and we are not able to do that today, but if people ask this is available on Facebook, I think Instagram or something or Twitter and of course will be archived. But Mr. Thacker while we're waiting for that to come up, maybe we can go ahead and start with our public input.

Thacker: Absolutely. Thank you.

Smith: All right. Thank you.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

Smith: Anyone in the audience who would like to share something in public input today? Alright, Mr. Bryce.

Bryce: Frank Bryce, President Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. I came ill prepared today because I got your packet late last night and I was busy and I ran out of ink, so I couldn't printout the stuff I needed. But I am going to be submitting a list of questions starting this New Year of issues that we're concerned with at the Shelter and how it relates or reflects or is
part of the animal control system. I want to thank Mr. Macias for your
comments. Those are very good and interesting and things we need to be
kind of looking into. Just to give you a quick idea of things that we're
cconcerned about, we've had a lot of discussion on this; very late-term
spay, the written review perhaps from the Austin Pets Alive, we haven't
heard that there was one. We are still getting reports of diseased animals,
distemper and stuff showing up. And Colorado, I believe it's called
PACFA where you can get a permit to send animals into the state, which
we have been doing. They're very concerned about the diseased animals
coming from other states and they're about to pass a law probably that will
prevent us sending animals up there that are not really certainly healthy.
They do not want us sending animals with ticks and fleas and diseases in
there. So those are some of the issues that we're going to be bringing
back to the Board. I believe that covers it for the moment.

I did have a question. I was kind of hoping to see this thing about
Best Friends, I'm very pleased with Best Friends. You cannot be there's
just no two-ways about it. But they did print an article in their magazine,
it's called, In Choosing a Life Saving Path, and I don't know whether
you've had a chance to see it. I feel very personally that it was not a good
representation of what's going on or a good story. It sounds good when
you read it, but there were a lot of inaccuracies. I don't even know who
wrote it, but it did come out in their magazine and we're in the process of
preparing a rebuttal to it so. You can be aware of that. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Bryce. Any other public comment today? Yes ma'am.

Baker: My name is Carla Baker. I'm with Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue
located here in Las Cruces. I have multiple concerns. I have lots to say
so I'm just going to like hit points. We are mainly an off-the-street rescue.
We don't normally pull from the shelter. One thing that I do want to point
out is we've had mommas and pups in our organization since we've
existed which is over five years now. We've never had a point in our life
span of our rescue that we haven't had mommas and pups. There's
something disturbing going on at the shelter that is kind of, we're having to
step it up a notch to try to assist with this barbaric thing that's happening.
What they're doing is they're taking very like late-term, full-term mommas,
spaying them out and leaving the puppies on the table to die. Not
euthanizing the puppies, leaving the puppies on the table to die. That's
barbaric. Any of you guys, your wives, how would you feel if they were
forcefully spayed out and the baby was just left there?

I did speak to Clint about this and during the conversation, I've only
had three conversations with him since he has been here in Las Cruces,
and during the conversation he told me four times that he didn't like me.
He told me I'm out of line and he told me that there's no comparison. I
believe he's out of line. This is not okay. So we've stepped it up and
we've been trying to pull all of these mommas out there right as they're
being spayed and neutered. I was told via a Facebook message from him on December 7th that, I would be happy to share it if you don’t believe what I’m saying, that he does agree to notify us and let rescues have a chance to pull them prior to spaying them out. Then on December 18th I was notified by an employee there, I’m not friends with a single employee there. There are several employees that know I’m going to be the one that speaks out, so suddenly I’ve got all these employees contacting me. Employees have been threatened with termination if they talk to me. There’s something, there’s a cover-up, if they’re being told they’re going to be terminated by the Medical Director is the one telling them this, then there’s a problem. Okay, on December 18th I was notified first thing in the morning there was a dog, a very pregnant dog, going to be spayed out. I started calling some of the kennel managers, I was calling the shelter, I was calling, nobody was calling me back. Then I get a message from one of the managers saying, "Oh they believe that dog has just got a tumor." Okay, I deal with a lot of pregnant dogs. That would be a very symmetrical tumor on a dog that was ready to deliver. Long story short, they spayed her out, full of puppies, kill the puppies, then I get the call from Clint saying, that’s the call I was talking about how much he doesn’t like me and so I could care less if he likes me. I get the call from Clint saying, "Oh they thought there was a medical problem.” "They thought it was a tumor." Then they said it was a mid-term and then mom was too old, I heard one excuse after another, after another. Remember back on December 7th they said if a rescue wants them, they’ll give them to the rescue. We could have dealt with it being a tumor then. We could have made that decision on whether or not. We would not have spayed out and left those babies to die. I need to fast-forward because I know I’ve got a limited amount of time, but I could go off on that conversation.

I do want to make a comment on one of his notes first. Somebody made a comment and asked him about why the stats on December 2017 had 385 dogs pulled by rescues and December 2018 122 dogs were pulled back, because we don’t trust the shelter anymore. In December of 2017 and he had barely started, we were working with Paul and we were working with Bernice and we were working with Curtis. He had barely started. We were all on board, we were working our butts off to get them out of there and get them out of other rescues and out of the state. It’s not as easy to work with him. He is a PR person. He should run for President, but as far as working with rescues, no, I don’t trust him. I don’t believe him. He tells me one week he’ll send pregnant dogs to us and he kills the babies the next week. Pregnant dogs that are spayed out are more likely to get sick and die themselves. I have two examples. I’ve been rescuing pregnant dogs and their babies for over five years. Oh and another thing, they are vaccinating the mommas upon intake. I know they vaccinate every animal upon intake, but if you’ve got a late pregnant momma that’s ready to deliver you are, ask any vet in this town because
believe me, I've been calling them and talking to them, and that is contraindicated. They should not be doing it.

So in November we pull a momma from there for a rescue based in Maine. Shepherds Beyond Borders we reached out to them. We had an hour before the momma was going to be spayed, they said, "Yes, pull her, we're fostering her in town." Long story short, 13 babies one by one by one every baby died, momma died. I've never had a mom and babies die.

Here let me fast forward. I've got another momma we pulled. I was in there, we also run the City of Crosses Dachshund Rescue. I was in there pulling a Dachshund, I don't have the date, but it was about three and a half weeks ago. There was a pregnant momma dog just shaking, freaked out, scared, I ran to my car, called Shepherds Beyond Borders and said we have another one can you take her? They're like, "Absolutely." I run home, make some phone calls to fosters, I need someone who will take this momma. We pull her. She gives birth the next day. I'm going to fast forward and save you the gruesome details. One by one by one as we're holding every baby twitching from distemper and momma they've all died. That happened yesterday. They don't need to be receiving distemper vaccines. I've never lost a pregnant mom. The whole time I've been taking moms in. I've been taking moms in for five years. I've been taking them off the streets. I don't have a shelter telling me that they have to have a distemper shot and giving it to momma so we have all these distemper babies. I have videos if you guys want to see what a one pound twitching baby looks like. It's not okay.

You guys are the ones that are in charge of this. You guys can make a change. You talked about kittens. You talked about your kittens being sick. It's not okay to sit and watch these. I've got a foster dad that was 24 hours a day staying up trying to save the lives of these families, totally broken up, totally crying, totally losing it. You know they're all at the morgue right now or at the Forever Friends getting cremated today. Pretty sad. Pretty sad. I've lost two moms, both full-term pregnancies, both ready to pop right after they were pulled, both were vaccinated.

Now, I am not against spaying. I am totally, it's a community problem, if those dogs were spayed we wouldn't have had that problem. But once they enter that shelter, this shelter has a right not to do barbaric practices. Okay I have another thing to say on that same thing.

Smith: All right Ms. Baker if you could wrap it up for us.

Baker: Okay. Okay. Basically, I'm asking if they're going to release, we've got, I made a network of a whole bunch of different rescues outside of here. We've sent a whole bunch to Oregon. We're sending some to Colorado. Two loads this week, we will take them. The problem is we're sending distempered animals out there. I can't have them spay and neutered. I have to, I mean excuse me, I can't have them vaccinated. They've got some that are getting pregnant at the shelter. One dog in particular
pregnant at the shelter, she was in plant, she went to the shelter in June, spayed out in late November, babies were viable. That's not okay. They should have spayed her out when they took her in and not let her get pregnant at the shelter.

Smith: Thank you Ms. Baker. Mr. Thacker do you have anything you want to say in response to that at this point or would you like to work on that for our next meeting?

Thacker: Well there's a lot I'd like to say about that. First of all, her and I's discussion it was comments from her side as well. And the reason why I told her I did not like her as an individual is because she said people with a lot of children are a burden to society. I have seven children and she deliberately pointed that out saying that I was a burden to society. So that was not right to me. And also I told her that it is not the same when you are talking about human life and you're talking about animal life. I value human life higher than I do animal life.

Smith: And Mr. Thacker it sounds like this unfortunately devolved into somewhat of a personal kind of conversation.

Thacker: It is a personal attack on her side and also to a point on my side. However one important thing she did not mention in her discussion here was that I said I did not like her, however, she does do a lot for our animals and I will continue to work with her and her rescue. That is something I was very very clear with and she does do a lot for our animals and we do very much appreciate that.

Smith: Mr. Thacker. If I may, perhaps you can help us with the distemper question because that has been something that has come up and I think that's probably at the crux of a lot of what we've heard about today.

Thacker: Yes, and I wish Dr. Baiz was here so she could be able to address this as well because the shot that we give them, the vaccine is a modified live virus. It is impossible for that virus or that injection to give an animal distemper. It gives them the antibodies to fight distemper. Also distemper shows itself 10 to 14 days after they get it. The only way those dogs that she's referring to were able to get distemper was if they came in with it and the animals were dying from it. Dr. Baiz does not do anything off the fly. She is professional. She does her research. And we did come to the conclusion through UC-Davis, which is a very, very well known veterinarian college, that the risk of having an animal abort puppies because of a vaccine far less exceeds the possibility of the animal getting the disease. So that is why we vaccinate everything upon intake, everything.
Smith: All right. Thank you Mr. Thacker. I think that as we have the ongoing attempts to address the distemper question, especially as we have new members of the Board here, that that effort is something that it would be helpful if maybe Dr. Baiz could help us the next time as far as what's being done and what we can expect as far as distemper issues both with pregnant mothers and their newly born or aborted puppies.

Thacker: I can also address that. Mr. Bryce mentioned how much he loves Best Friends. Guess what Best Friends recommends, vaccinating out of female dogs when they come in to get spayed. Action Program for Animals recommends vaccinating out females when they come in to get spayed. Every single one of our shelter vets recommends vaccinating out females upon, if they're pregnant, when they come in for spay. It is a general practice.

Smith: All right, thank you. Any additional questions from Members of the Board? Thank you Mr. Thacker. Any other public input? Yes sir.

Tapia: Hello, my name is Marcus Tapia.

Smith: Mister, I'm sorry we'll need to speak directly into the mic.

Tapia: My name is Marcus Tapia.

Smith: Thank you.

Tapia: Yes sir. So I would like to say Mr. Thacker also said that no puppy should ever be born. And I would also like to tell Mr. Thacker "a life is a life". Okay, I know exactly what you went through Board Member Macias. I know exactly what you went through. Bottle feeding puppies every three hours, staying up every night, doing everything you can, loving them, holding them. I know exactly what you went through. I am a foster for local rescues. I know what it is to see tiny puppies twitch from distemper. Local vets are saying pregnant dogs should not be vaccinated. Unborn puppies can be and are being affected. Over the past week I held a litter of tiny puppies all less than a pound, as they died, one by one. I held their mom as she took her last breath. She was vaccinated four days before the puppies were born. I urge the shelter to stop vaccinating late-term pregnant dogs. Puppies and mom dogs are dying. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Tapia. I think this will probably be an area that we could use some more clarification. Yes Mr. Tapia.

Tapia: Sorry, excuse me. It's Mr. Tapia. Did you get that?

Smith: I didn't hear it clearly.
Tapia: Okay that's why I'm just.

Smith: Tapia?


Smith: Okay, thank you.

Tapia: Thank you.

Smith: All right any other public input today? Yes Ms. Gilbert.

Gilbert: I would just like to say that I myself am very concerned about the spaying out of dogs that are full-term and if that is recommended by or the practice of shelters across the U.S. and Best Friends themselves, I'm curious if there is a time frame that they look at because if they feel that spaying out full-term is acceptable. And the other comment I would like to make is that it's obvious as a community that we've got to do something about people surrendering their dogs when they're pregnant. What can we do? What can we do to up the bar or increase our spay and neuter? And what can we do to educate people so if they have a dog who is pregnant, a cat, can they hold on to them? Can they keep them? Can we help them as a community to find those animals homes where they'll be spayed and neutered? To me it just seems like it is really an issue. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Ms. Gilbert. Yes sir.

Comeau: Good morning. My name is Ron Comeau. I am with Lucy's Dream Rescue. I am with High Desert Doberman Rescue. And I represent rescues across the country. I want to do a quick discussion about a German shepherd that I was trying to pull. They knew I was going to pull it. My wife's uncle passed away. I contacted Curtis to let him know that I couldn't get there on Friday to pick the dog up because I had things to do. They killed the dog on Friday. Now my question is, is behavioral issue dogs where I deal with behavioral issue dogs, I've dealt with behavioral issue dogs at El Paso Animal Services, I've pulled behavioral issue dogs from El Paso. What kind of guidelines do they use to decide what's a behavioral issue problem and what isn't? Who in the facility is certified or has had training to decide what dog is and what dog isn't a behavioral issue? I'd really like to have that question answered at the next meeting. I'd really like to know how they justify the fact that they killed a dog I was trying to pick up. I have the text messages by the way if anybody would like to see them.

The second thing is, this stuff we've killing mommas or babies, you know guys, go to the shelter. Watch them when they spay out at full-term.
Watch those babies suffer. Watch them suffocate. Because he's an animal, watch it, tell me it doesn't matter. Tell me that their lives don't matter. I supported him and the whole reason why he had so many people rescues dealing with him in his first term is because he promised to work with us. And then you wonder why there's so few now. Fix it. I feel like I'm dealing with Beth again. We don't need that. I'm sorry, but this is ridiculous. You guys went from he was going gung-ho and he had Paul and Curtis did a really good job when they first started. They really did. But the way things are going right now, I don't even pull from you guys again anymore. I can't walk into the shelter because I cannot believe what they're doing in the shelter now. You do not spay out full-term pregnant dogs and yes, I represent Shepherds Beyond Borders. This needs to come to an end and it needs to come to an end now, not tomorrow, not the next day. This is ludicrous that we allow that type of thing to happen.

I asked him why I stopped getting contacted about dogs. His comment to me was, "I didn't know I had to." Well let me tell you something, El Paso Animal Services, I can show you my phone, everybody from the second in command to the volunteers send me pictures and information on pets that need to be out of the shelter so we can network them and move them. If they're not willing to do it then they need to be replaced. The only way you're going to clear out this shelter and move them on and as you can see by your December numbers from last year, is if your rescues get together and help. But they have to get off their butt and let us know what's available, what's needed, what the problems are.

The first momma dog she was talking about when I questioned on it, I was told that they reached out to the rescues and nobody wanted her. Well, you know what? I was pulling from the facility. Did I get contacted? As a rescue was I contacted? I deal with rescues across the country, not just here. If we have a problem, or we have a pregnant dog if somebody would notify us, we could network it and save all their lives as long as they don't vaccinate them. And I'm sorry, but along with Carla, I've discussed this with rescues across the country and everybody says the same thing. I've got to be honest with you, if APA or whoever says that this is all right to do this, they're wrong. It's an immoral thing to do. Us, as human beings, should not be doing these kind of things. Who's really the animal them or us?

Smith: Can I ask you a question?

Comeau: Yes you can sir.

Smith: Thank you. I'm not familiar with Shepherds Without Borders. I don't recall.

Comeau: Shepherds Beyond Borders.
Beyond Border, I'm sorry. And I wrote it down correctly. But and I don't recall them being included in our discussions about Zero and Seven. Is that some or is your group here? Has it been here a while or has it been recently arrived? You'll have to speak directly into the microphone.

Shepherds Beyond Borders along with several other rescues nationwide contact me when they need dogs or they have openings. They operate off my Facebook page because I post the dogs and then they contact me and say, "I'll take the dog." At that point we pull the dog, we get the dogs fully vetted and then we either, she actually drives down here with a van and she'll pickup 12 to 15 dogs and take them back to Maine.

We also deal with Alone to Home Transport Group and Doobert Transport Group. These groups transport dogs nationwide for free. I just transported four shepherds on Friday to Maine. I've got three more going to Maine on the 16th. I've got three going to Florida on the 19th. And we have scheduled transports for the rest of the next two months getting dogs out of this area. I picked up a dog in Alamogordo yesterday, that's one of the dogs that's going to Maine on the 16th.

We have dogs in foster, we have dogs in boarding, I have 14 dogs at my house and we deal with all these people, all these places. It's an amazing thing because we have, like in your video about Last Litter Program, which never should have been closed, one of their working dogs rescue in Scottsdale is one of the ones that we deal with. They take dogs and they train them to be service dogs and they give them to the military personnel that need them. You guys are missing the boat.

And thank you for all of that effort. I guess I'm just, I'm feeling remiss in not knowing about what you were doing previously. And so were you contacted by Ms. Barker when you said somebody contacts you or Ms.

Yes, Kelly Barker and I have been in contact through rescue for a couple of years at least, maybe longer. Basically what happens and again through networking, through Facebook, if you look at our Facebook pages, Carla's, mine, you know, we've got rescues like I said all over the country. Basically what happened was that she told me what was going on and when she had dogs that needed to go to rescue she'd contact me, I'd network them and we'd get them to rescues. You know it's the same thing with Carla when she talked to us about the mom and puppies. You know the first one, I contacted Shepherds Beyond Borders at that point she had all her information so she was able to contact her the second time straight.

So you're located here now?

I'm in El Paso, Texas.
Smith: Here in El Paso.

Comeau: Yes.

Smith: And you've been doing this from El Paso for a while now.

Comeau: Yes Sir.

Smith: All right. I appreciate that because I think it's helpful for us to know how some of these different pieces fit together.

Comeau: Exactly. Thank you. It is. And take into consideration my Explorer is 15 months old, I put 54,000 miles on it in 15 months transporting dogs away from here.

Smith: Okay. Well as you I'm sure understand from the situation here in Las Cruces which we have been dealing with for quite a while, we are trying to zero in on best practices for how we can accomplish both the education piece and the transportation piece and the appropriate when we have an excess at the shelter how we deal with those things. So thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention and certainly I know Mr. Thacker will be back with some appropriate responses regarding what information they have at the shelter, what they're basing their decisions on and that will help us at our next meeting understand the breadth of what we're talking about, but thank you.

Comeau: Well, and just let me say one thing and I'll walk away. When you guys had the meetings and we discussed who was going to be your Director, I talked personally with him, I felt really good about him, he kept telling me how he wanted to support rescues and that was one of the major things to do and I got to be honest with you at this point I would not vote for him again ever. Thank you.

Smith: Well thank you. I think probably you will discover that sometimes people are still the same person you spoke to before, maybe the circumstances with the distemper situation or something like that may have put stress on this situation, but I look forward to there being more information to help us look at this and make the best decisions as far as how we're moving forward. Thank you. Any other comments from the public?

Ellins: Mr. Chair.

Smith: Yes, Ms. Ward. Yes Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: I had another quick question for the gentleman.
Smith: All right. If you don't mind coming back Mr. Comeau. And Ms. Ward we'll get to you in just a moment, excuse me, Officer Ward.

Comeau: Sorry, I didn't mean to run-off.

Ellins: As you know I've been on the Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary for seven years on the Board. And I'm always curious as to why are there shortage in other states that requires us to ship so many dogs, as you do, because I have to believe other states have the same kinds of problems.

Comeau: No they don't.

Ellins: Why not?

Comeau: They have better laws. The laws are enforced. They just do a much better job on how they handle their future family members and the pets that they have now. Shepherds Beyond Borders, in their town, their shelter has 10 kennels, 10. Because they have rules, they have laws and people are made to abide by them. The dogs are spayed and neutered so that makes it where they need more dogs. So honestly, Shepherds Beyond Borders, for example in the last three months has taken almost 75 dogs from this area. And right now I've got probably 12 more that are going.

I deal with Pennsylvania, Ohio, Connecticut, Florida, Arizona, other places in New Mexico, Colorado. And again, Colorado is another thing. Colorado bases, if you go to a base and you're military, you have a dog, if you go to leave, you're required to take the dog with you or provide proof that you gave that dog to another home or to a rescue or someplace other than just dumping it at the shelter.

Around here, we just don't care about our pets. People are they don't spay them, they don't neuter them, they don't microchip them, they don't give them shots and that creates a big issue. But that being said, if our shelter is not working properly with the rescues that they know can move these pets and future family members, then we're going to continue to have the over-population, we're going to continue to have to put dogs down. And the bottom line is, if we don't work with these other states that can move these dogs and that require these dogs to meet the need of the people that are going to take care of these dogs, which is a major deal, which is one of the reasons why I deal with specific rescues across the country, because when those dogs go I know those dogs are going to go through a home check, they're going to do a vet check, they're going to do a house check. When that dog goes to a home we know it's a good home. If it's not a good home, it doesn't go because we have waiting lists in these rescues that I deal with for future family members to go to.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Comeau.
Ellins: You seemed to suggest earlier that it's a State Law problem. States other than New Mexico have better legislation on the books?

Comeau: Yes sir, they do. And they actually work the laws. People are required and they are charged if they don't follow the guidelines or the laws. It's not, you guys and El Paso have got the same problem. Yes, we have got rules on the books or laws on the books. Do they get enforced? Not really. We now have the Animal Abuse Division with the City. A fantastic group of people, 463 charges last year, because I was at the meeting last night. They're doing a wonderful job. Las Cruces needs that, they really do. But we have to make the lives of the pets better. It's our job to take care of them. They can't take care of themselves.

Ellins: Thank you.

Comeau: And by the way, thank you for Safe Haven. I do work with them quite a bit. I actually worked on a behavioral problem dog that they had there.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Comeau. I believe Board Member Gonzalez has a question.

Comeau: Yes Sir.

Gonzalez: How's your relationship with the animal shelter in El Paso?

Comeau: Sir I can show you text messages from everybody from the second in command to volunteers, giving me information on pets so that I can find them homes. I get phone calls. I get text messages. I go in there just when I have time and I'm in town, I go in there, we videotape dogs, we take pictures of dogs and we network the dogs.

Gonzalez: And how well do you get along with the Director of that animal shelter in El Paso?

Comeau: Which one?

Gonzalez: The animal shelter in El Paso.

Comeau: I know, but which Director. Paula Paulson I have her cell number and we deal together all the time.

Gonzalez: I was wondering how that works. I've seen her on TV.

Comeau: Yes.
Gonzalez: And I was just wondering how that relationship is.

Comeau: Paula and I have an agreement. We have meetings once a month, which we haven't had because of the holidays, where we come in and we discuss what's going on and if there's any concerns or any things that are coming up, which we discussed that last night. Obviously, nobody's perfect. We all have issues. Now that again being said, where I deal with rescue, transport, foster I'm involved in so many different phases of this deal. I get to see a lot more of what's going on and what's happening and that's why we have these meetings and conversations to discuss better ways to get things done, which is something that needs to happen here. We have meetings, actually Paula and I have meetings personally and they also have meetings with the rescues where they bring all the rescues in and we sit down and we discuss what's going on, what we can do to improve it, what kind of issues that we ran into, so that we can correct the problems and move on and get more family members out of the shelter. It's you know.

Gonzalez: Mind boggling. Well I hope that they do something about that.

Comeau: It needs to happen. It needs to happen. The shelter needs to have meetings with the rescues, they need to discuss what's going on, you guys need to look at why all of the sudden you've got half the dogs being pulled by rescues you did last year. That's got to tell you something. You've got to look at the numbers.

Smith: Thank you Mr. Comeau. Board Member Gonzalez, thank you. Mr. Thacker.

Thacker: We do have monthly meetings. It's called the Coalition. Myself and Jean are the only ones that attend that in most cases. Occasionally we'll have SNAP there. The opportunity for the rescues to speak is there. I have not set up any walls to any rescues. Another one is, is that who sterilizes these dogs that the rescues are taking? We do.

Smith: All right, Mr. Thacker. Let me suggest that we comprehensively discuss the issues that were brought up today, because at this particular moment, we're starting to sound like we're getting into a back and forth kind of thing.

Thacker: Exactly what it is.

Smith: And I would like for us to comprehensively address the concerns that were brought up at our next meeting. I believe Officer Ward wanted to share something with us, thank you. And Mr. Comeau I think we're going to leave it there for today, but I appreciate your input, thank you. Ms. Ward.
Ward: Thank you. I just wanted to say, what I have to say is a comment. As someone who has worked in this field for an awful long time, I want to say thank you to all the animal groups, all the animal activists, all the shelter employees, all the Animal Control Officers, everyone in this community that has put in so much hard work and effort for the care and welfare of the animals of Doña Ana County. It has shown just this past year. I have seen a tremendous amount of effort and positive changes just in this last year. Going in from all of these communities, these different entities working together, as a team for a common goal and that's for the animals. And it has been great for me to sit back and be a part of this and witness these positive changes. Let's not forget where the shelter was over a year ago and the huge enormous problem we had with the number of animals in that facility. Clint's got a tough job, a really tough job and I feel, because it's really hard, but we have seen a positive change in a lot of communication and hard work going back and forth with all these agencies and these entities that have been involved. So I just wanted to bring that before and say thank you to everyone. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Officer Ward. All right. Then if there are no new comments from the public we will go to Board Comments.

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY

Smith: We will go to Board comments.

Macias: Mr. Chairman.

Smith: Oh, I'm sorry. Oh the Best Friends piece I believe we were talking about having some meetings next week or the following week. Is that correct Mr. Thacker?

Thacker: Meetings for with Best Friends?

Smith: Yes, weren't we trying to schedule something with that? No.

Thacker: No she's here to do a presentation on Community Cats.

Smith: Okay, so was there anything else about Best Friends that we were supposed to discuss today or are we covered on that?

Thacker: Covered.

Smith: Okay, thank you did you have something else Board Member Eakman that you were referring to? No. Okay thank you.
Thacker: She may touch base on their visit that they came and did in December, so she may touch base on that, but this is her presentation so.

Smith: Okay, thank you.

Ellins: Mr. Chairman. I thought we were trying to bring up Best Friends Animal Society.

Smith: Okay, that's where I lost track of where we were. Thank you. So she's coming forward to speak now. Thank you.

Ellins: All right.

Vigos: Hello everyone. I am Jessica Vigos, I ...

Smith: Ms. Vigos you're going to have to speak directly into that microphone.

Vigos: Okay. So my name is Jessica Vigos. I've worked for Best Friends for the last five years. I was here and conducted part of a shelter assessment for your shelter. And I've been heavily involved in the community cat issue or community cat stance. So, there were so many things said that I would so much like to respond on, but the one thing that I will say is you have a serious pet over-population and that is not a shelter issue. That is a community issue. In order to solve that issue it is going to take your shelters, your rescues, and everyone in the community working together.

So I wanted to give you a brief presentation on community cats and then I'll tell you about some really positive things that happened yesterday and also touch on the shelter assessment. So I'm not sure how much information you have about what trap, neuter, return is, but cats that come into your shelter, healthy cats, would be referred to as shelter, neuter, return. Those animals who qualify through some guidelines are fixed and returned to the community where they came from. Often times those cats have people caring for them. They have a home. They have somewhere to go back to. Filling up space in an over-populated shelter doesn't make sense to hold cats that can be vaccinated and returned to the community. So the benefits are this reduces shelter admissions, operating costs, it creates safer communities by reducing the number of unvaccinated cats, it improves the health and quality of lives for free roaming cats, it reduces behaviors that lead to nuisance complaints, such as yowling, mating, spraying and what I like to call littering, having kittens all over the community. And TNR actually has been the only thing that's been proven to reduce the size of colonies over time.

Who is eligible for TNR and SNR? Any free roaming outdoor cat without identification. So a cat comes in, it's not microchipped, it has no collar, it's healthy, that cat would be a qualifying candidate. The cat does have to be healthy, be able to be surviving well out there and/or have
easily treatable conditions such as UTIs, ear mites, worms, parasites, something that can be treated, and of course meet the body score recommendation that it is doing good. I touched on that.

So the vacuum effect is something important to talk about because the vacuum effect is essentially what we’ve been doing for many many decades. That is we go, somebody calls the complaint center as I like to call them, which is animal control, says, "There’s a cat here, we trapped the cat, we removed that cat in the past." All those cats have been euthanized and pretty soon a couple weeks go by and there’s another cat to replace it. And what happens is the more you remove these cats from the community the more new cats move in and think I better have a bunch of babies so I can repopulate this area. There are natural resources that exist in those areas and there will always be cats there and until we come up with a solution that directly effects spaying and neutering them and putting them back, you’re continuing to put a Band-Aid on a problem that has long existed.

The biggest piece that I could share with your community is public education is desperately needed here. This is a community issue as the shelter pointed out, as the rescues pointed out. There is a big disconnect in many places that we visit with community education and it’s because for decades our way to deal with this has been involving the municipal shelters and the rescues spinning their wheels without getting a lot of education out there. So it’s important to be able to have a very clear way that we’re going to get the public involved. The live videos showing the shelter over-population is huge. Getting media involved and doing news presentations. Those are all things that are going to make a big difference in your community.

So some things back on the cats is that qualifying guidelines. Cats that are declawed are not eligible to be released obviously through a TNR program. Cats that are in poor health, cats that have been returned to the shelter multiple times; so maybe some of those cats currently that are being ear tipped and released may come back in to the shelter, those cats if they’re coming back in multiple times, that’s a clear indicator that they need a different alternative.

Medical issues that prevent a healthy release; overt friendliness, you go to release a cat, it jumps back in the van with you. So canvassing is a huge part of this. And yesterday I was able to actually go on returns with the shelter worker. And one of the biggest things that I covered in the shelter assessment that I believe all of you received, was that you always hear in new cities is "That our City doesn't want this. Our people don't want this program." They don't want the cats." Things like that.

Yesterday, I did seven returns with one of the shelter techs and it was incredible. Every single person that we talked to was completely supportive. That was a business owner, residents in the neighborhoods, it varied from County and City locations. A lovely Spanish-speaking woman who luckily had somebody there that I was able to communicate with that
has been caring for these cats that was so happy that there was an option to fix the other ones in her rural area. So talking to people is a huge part of that and that's what we call canvassing. So being able to have the shelter staff that's returning these cats have printed documentation saying what the ear tip is. Why we're doing this. Why we're putting the cats back. Those key pieces are how you educate the community to start being like, "Hey, there's a free roaming cat that does not have an ear tip. Let's get it fixed." And so you need to have those items available and everybody in the system needs to be informed of that. That means animal control needs to be giving that same information. The shelter needs to be giving the same information. It's helpful for you guys to be able to give the same information. If somebody calls the City Health Department, the County Commissioner, for them all to be on the same page of what is happening and the reasons that we're doing it.

Another piece of that is having access, being able to explain to the public how to trap, how to do it humanely, and how to access the resources to get those animals fixed.

Some talking points about TNR are especially important for people who may not be directly in the field, but being able to basically give some basic information about why it's beneficial. And then the last piece that comes in that really has a lot to do with Animal Control as well as the shelter and people returning cats is conflict resolution. I will tell you I have worked in the shelters for the last five years. I have been the person that returns cats to the community. I've released over 1,800 cats in two and a half years and people need information. People can keep pets off of their property, people who want to care for the cats can continue to do it and access resources. It's all about being able to speak with people. So a lot of the things that you hear; "I don't want the cats in my yard. The cats are digging in my garden." "They're pooping." All of those issues can be easily addressed through good information. You know specific complaints; cats are getting into trash, cats are lounging on the porch, all of these issues directly relate to the over population of free roaming cats. You start fixing them, start providing people information, every single one of these issues can be easily addressed by very little information. When we did the shelter assessment ...

Smith: You're going to need back at the microphone.

Vigos: When we did the shelter assessment, there are a couple of areas that talk about the presentations that Scott Giacoppo did for the Animal Control both City and County. I'm sure you read that assessment. It was not the easiest presentation, but the one thing that is desperately needed in this community is the Animal Control Officers to be giving this information to people. Animal Control's job is to help educate the community and provide animal control for that animal control services and their willingness to participate greatly impacts the over-population problem in this
community. Them being able to give information about deterrents, about what an ear tip is, about how to properly care for cats for someone that's doing it, those are all extremely important pieces to the puzzle.

Feeding community cats too for a long time, the general theory has been especially by animal control that the people feeding the cats are actually creating the problem. That's actually not the case. The people feeding the cats have compassion for a serious community issue, and that is they don't want to watch cats starve to death. So there are good care giving practices and it's very important that everybody knows what those practices are. You know, not dumping large amounts of food out, leaving food out all night, those kinds of things are things that we also want people to follow. So we want to be able to give resources to the person and have good conversations about the people who say, "I don't like the cats. I don't want them around." And also the people who say, "I really love and appreciate caring for the cats and I want to do a better job at that."

So some myths that you will commonly hear to address community cat issues are, "Well just stop feeding them, they'll go away." I'm here to tell you as somebody who has trapped multiple places with emaciated cats that that is not true. It results for them scavenging, getting emaciated, getting sickly, becoming unhealthy members of the community. That is not a solution. Trap and eradicate, same thing we talked about with the vacuum effect, we've been trying to do this for the last 80 years and it's actually never reduced the population of free roaming cats. It's actually tripled it. And then trap, remove and relocate, I will say that there are some instances where a community cat may need to be relocated. We have a program for that, it's called the Working Cat Program, but for the most part relocation is very hard and it's not effective. You're ultimately doing the same thing that you would do if you were removing the cat. You're creating a vacuum effect where new cats are going to move in. So whenever possible the cats should always be returned to the location unless their lives are endangered or there truly are no resources for them there.

Working cats could be highly beneficial in your area. I've been all over the City and County during the last time I was here as well as this time. Working cats are something that are very beneficial as well. That provides an alternative for those cats who may come back to the shelter multiple times or may not have a safe place to be returned. You have a lot of farm rural areas. You have a lot of businesses, warehouses, things like that, the Working Cat Program is phenomenal for areas like that. It provides a non-chemical form of rodent control, and the people agree to take care of the cats. I place about 230 cats per year through our Working Cat Program in Utah and it is highly successful. As far as the shelter assessment goes is there any areas that you gentlemen had questions on or would like me to go over?

Smith: Any questions for Ms. Vigos?
Vigos: Vigos.
Smith: Vigos. I wrote it down, but I didn't remember how to pronounce it.
Vigos: It's okay.
Smith: All right, Board Member Gonzalez and then Board Member Ellins.
Gonzalez: Do you host meetings on educating the community? When and where and how often?
Vigos: We have a lot of available online resources. We also do have some documents that I would love to share with you gentlemen that would be (inaudible).
Baum: Excuse me. We really need you on the mic if you're going to talk because otherwise we can't record you.
Smith: That's right if you could give it to the clerk then she can hand it to the rest of us thank you.
Vigos: So the one page flyer would contain the logo for the shelter at the bottom and then the contact information for the shelter. So that's a flyer that could be hung in multiple places. And then the two-pages that I handed out would actually be printed as a door hanger. One side is Spanish speaking, one side is English, and that gives basic information about the cats being returned. And that is a huge piece in the public education, is making sure that those door hangers are put on multiple houses in every direction when you return a cat.

As far as the shelter assessment goes it is eight pages long. So, some very important things that were identified as huge barriers right now is the intake, the sheer number of intakes for both cats and dogs. You actually have one of the highest populations of dog intakes that I've ever seen, which it's usually opposite in the places that I've been anyway. So an extremely high number, the return to owner rate is very very low. That is a huge indicator also of the desperate need for community education and public involvement. There's no rural county spay or neuter options. One of you asked the gentleman from the canines, the German Shepherd Rescue, what the difference was in Maine and the states that these dogs are going to. The main difference in those states is aggressive spay and neuter programs. Aggressive, low-income, spay and neuter programs, the access to those resources. So that is the big difference in those states is that they've been implementing those programs for a number of years.
The County perception of ordinances, right now bringing back in cats that have already been ear tipped, that's a huge barrier right now.
Lack of public awareness, education and cultural barriers, so I'm going to just point out some of the recommendations so the biggest one is that Best Friends would like to do a pilot program for the City and County and usually those pilot programs are three to five years. We obviously provide a lot of resources for those things, but my supervisor of course let me know that we would want a letter of commitment from the City and County for that pilot program. I think it could make a huge impact on your community. If you look up anywhere online these days you will see state after state, city after city posting articles about the huge impact that a trap/neuter/return program makes. Six months, a year takes a shelter with a 20% live release rate to about an 80 to 90% live release rate. So it makes a huge impact. It provides more resources for those animals that are sickly, the medical cases, the pregnant animals and things like that. And the last thing is that I did want to read the position statement on pregnant spays from Best Friends.

So, Best Friends believes that ideally animals determined to be pregnant should be placed in foster care through shelter volunteer networks or by placement with rescue organizations until the offspring are old enough to be fixed and placed for adoption in circumstances with sufficient resources available for the number of animals cared for. Late-term dogs and cats may be sequestered until their pups or kittens are whelped and weaned. In circumstances that do not have the luxury of available space, its key right there, and if a foster home is not available those responsible for making such decisions must act to save the most lives possible with the resources at hand. Frequently the decision will involve balancing the need of previously born living neonatal kittens and puppies already in the shelter system on one hand with the needs of fetal animals on the other. In these cases, Best Friends prioritizes the care of those already born and will spay pregnant animals. Feral cats in our care are fixed not matter what the status of their pregnancy is. Because of their behavioral challenges, we simply cannot properly examine feral cats and they have been anesthetized and feral mothers are likely to ignore or kill kittens born into threatening captive environments. Thank you very much for your time.

Smith: Thank you Ms. Vigos. Questions? Yes Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: Part of your assessment involved the describing the less than enthusiastic attitude of Animal Control Officers with trap, neuter, spay and release. Could you talk about that?

Vigos: Yes, so during the assessment there were four people that contributed to this assessment. I was in the afternoon training. I'm going to just read that section if that's okay with you.

So Scott Giacoppo conducted a series of workshops for officers employed by the City and County and have grave concerns over Best
Friends funding a program in this locality until legislative changes are made and a firm commitment from Animal Control leadership is made. The overwhelming majority of field officers, most importantly those in leadership positions, were admittedly opposed to the concept of TNR. Comments were made about strictly enforcing current laws to subvert the efforts such as issuing citations for caregivers for harboring. Comments were also made about bringing cats out into the desert and letting them go, and that was by the officers. Providing the shelter with inaccurate pickup locations or no information at all. Comments such as, "I would rather see them euthanized than put back", were made. And in regard to the program reducing shelter intake therefore reducing shelter deaths, an officer in leadership position stated that, "Deaths occur in the shelter are not their problem, it is the shelter's problem", epitomized the disconnect between shelter and field operations.

Another high-ranking officer feels that if cats are returned and released that feeding them should be a criminal offense. Officers openly admitted that they attended the workshop because it was mandatory and had no interest in learning about the techniques. Due to the confrontational matter of the workshop, Scott was unable to get through his entire presentation and spent the time debating the merits of the program. Scott feels strongly that if we were to fund a program that the officers in both City and County would do everything possible to sabotage those efforts. And so that was his recommendations.

I was in the second afternoon training. I heard a lot of the comments that I hear when I travel to multiple cities from animal control. I can tell you that my personal feeling is that those comments and that push back comes from either the insecurity of "What will I do if I don't have all these cats to pickup" and the opinion that what they've been doing for the last several years hasn't worked maybe somewhat of a pride thing or maybe also somewhat of a guilt thing, but having taught management onboard is what it takes. Having the leaders say "This is what we are going to do. This is what we will be doing. You will educate. Your personal feelings aren't going to matter in that situation."

As you know, many ordinances written are left to the interpretation of the people. So the whole harboring thing, harboring would actually be taking an animal inside your home and not letting it go. So it doesn't make sense that they would use harboring as a term to deal with free roaming cats. It doesn't make any sense at all.

Ellins: Mr. Chairman. Could we have the Doña Ana County Animal Control people comment on this?

Smith: Yes, Board Member Ellins. Officer Ward would you like to make a response to that?
Ward: Yes. In regards to this, I wasn't in the second session, so I don't know what was said. I did pop-in briefly just to pick-up some papers and drop some papers off and then be gone. I was in the morning session. I know the morning session, our department had animal control officers asking questions as to what we would do. Some of the discussion during this process was to for us to release the animals once somebody calls in a complaint to us to go out and just release that animal back out. Under the State statutes there's abandonment and we can't go in and do certain abandonment stuff. We discussed things like that. Like going against what the laws are, what State statutes are, what our local ordinances are, and simply we did discuss about possibly having some of the laws changed. Maybe someone going to Santa Fe to the legislator sessions and looking at getting some of these laws changed as to changing the description of what abandonment is or what these other laws are in regard to TNR community cats. Like I said, I wasn't in the afternoon session so I'm not sure what she's talking about there. I wasn't there. During my session as well, there was myself and the City Leadership. City Leadership wasn't in the afternoon as well. I do have Officer Bryan Hulsey here. I'm not sure what session he was in.

Smith: Thank you Officer Ward. Officer Hulsey.

Hulsey: I was in the morning session as well. There is a lot that I can say about this. As of this time I would like to refuse due to me being in this position with the County. I do have several backgrounds, Bachelor Degrees in Wildlife Management and other things that came upon this. I myself personally am not refuting a program like this. We need something done. However the way it was presented and the deflections of answers that we were trying to get made it just more of a political statement to us and not really a true program for us to work with. Like I said we do need something to be done. I agree. We need to have educational, but the way it was presented and the way it was trying to be fed to us was not the way to go around this.

Smith: All right, thank you. Well I think probably we come back to legislative questions and policy questions that are going to be critical so that our ACOs and the people trying to help us can address that appropriately. Board Member Macias, did you have a question or comment you wanted to make about that?

Macias: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment and a couple of observations. And I apologize I just have to be at another meeting and so I didn't anticipate the meeting going this long. Perhaps 11 years as a trial court Judge really trains you not to react initially to anything, because you have to hear the whole picture. You have to be given the whole picture. What I've seen today is a level of
mutual animosity that is completely unacceptable. And we are bombarded with all of this information yet it's almost a trial environment where people are getting up and basically testifying one way, getting up saying things, overreacting to what's being said. And I know that this is an animal and this is really the document that I read because this is what was given to me in preparation of this meeting, the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley assessment. I have to believe that there is a more organized way to look to see what the challenges are. And I'm not saying that there aren't some good observations in this document, but that comes from a neutral body that takes into consideration and talks to all of the advocate groups, talks to the shelter administration, talks to the City and County bureaucracy that is connected with this effort. I have to believe because our contribution, both the City and the County's contribution to the Animal Shelter went up substantially this year, that there have to be resources to come in and do what would be a neutral, impartial assessment of all of these issues. Because I can't understand how that's going to work just in front of this Board. We're asking people to come back with more information at the next meeting. I think it has to be something, a good audit, a good review of the practices and the policies, a review of legislative changes that would enhance it, an assessment of what additional initiatives, both the County and the City can engage in in terms of addressing the population. I am concerned about the piecemeal approach that I'm even just seeing in this first meeting. And really the divisions of being able to bring people together on a mutual set of goals that will address the concerns that have been voiced here today. I just have to believe that there's a better approach to it, a more organized approach to it rather than hoping that the group of us can somehow sit up here and arbitrate that without a far more intensive review of the issues. Mr. Chairman I just want to encourage it as a future item on the agenda to discuss in terms of whether we approach it in a different way rather than what appears to be a little bit of a piecemeal approach to it.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Macias. And I should point out that this is something of an extraordinary meeting. We have not had this level of contention or division expressed in a long time at our meetings. So I was not quite prepared for it to run this long or to be this contentious either. What I would like to say is that probably what is warranted and I believe we're working on having a work session, and I think a work session regarding the issues that have been brought up today and how we find an appropriate way to assess them and work on that piece is probably going to be helpful moving forward, but I absolutely appreciate your comments Board Member Macias.

Macias: Mr. Chairman. Just a slight response. I understand that work sessions can be of some value, but normally their valuable to educate individuals that aren't educated about the issues. My sense is still let's bring in
someone at a professional level before we have a work session to come in and do some work and perhaps even do some mediation and so that the work session can have a product that has been given input by all of the different interest groups so then there would appear to me to be some value to go over the findings from that more comprehensive assessment.

Smith: Then I would suggest that probably what we're going to need to do is have a resolution before us to then contract with a consultant who would then bring all those things to us, which would take some time, but that may be as the approach. So let's have that as an item on which we can, we'll put that on the agenda for our next meeting.

Vigos: May I make one comment?

Smith: If you would wait one moment please. Board Member Eakman had a comment he wanted to make, and then I'll get to you Ms.

Vigos: Okay thank you.

Smith: Vigos.

Eakman: I also heard frustration in the room today and I'm starting my fourth year on this Board. And a couple of observations if I could give them to my fellow Board Members. I believe if you look at the mission statement of the Shelter and the current expectations of the Shelter, they are far removed from each other. And I believe we have put so much responsibility on the Shelter to do municipal and county duties that it is very difficult to please everyone or to make some standards happen number one. Number two I travel to many places around the globe. I travel Mexico quite a bit, Native American Nations throughout the country, no one has this over-population problem like we do here. And it's not solved by spay and neuter clinics, and it's not solved by any of that, it is solved by community norms and personal responsibilities. And it seems that we have some giant things to accomplish here in the City and the County which we have yet to address. And so I would also say that that should be an item coming up in a resolution. We need some outside help because we're not seeing the answers ourselves. Thank you.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Eakman. And now Ms. Vigos, thank you for your patience.

Vigos: No problem. Thank you. So I do want to comment that Best Friends is able to help with some of those assessments. Our attorneys can also work with County and City attorneys to come up with better legislation and it just so happens that Mr. Eakman had been.
Smith: Excuse me. We’re going to go out of session as soon as Mr. Eakman leaves because.

Eakman: I apologize.

Smith: No that’s quite all right, I just want to point out that we will not longer have a quorum so we will be having a discussion absent of quorum at this point so our official meeting has ended, but please go ahead and conclude your comments.

NO QUORUM AFTER THIS MOMENT.

Vigos: The assessment actually contained a lot of really positive information as well. Your Shelter and Director are working very very hard to make changes. They have done some extremely positive things to work towards making huge change in your community. It just so happens the part on the classes that were held was probably the most negative part of the assessment. I do encourage you to make changes, however I will say that your over-population issue at the Shelter needs some solutions right now. Waiting several months and taking that time will only further damage relationships between shelters, rescues and mostly impact the animals. So thank you very much for your time.

Smith: Thank you Ms. Vigos. At this point let me check with Ms. Baum, we have on our agenda comments from the public and comments from the Board members. Is that something that we can still continue to do even though we don’t have a quorum or is it best at this point to simply close the meeting?

Baum: Well you already did your public comment.

Smith: I sort of unintentionally did that yes.

Baum: Yes.

Smith: Okay, but then at this.

Baum: So it’s Board Members Comments, I think it’s entirely up to the Chairperson.

Smith: Thank you very much Ms. Baum. Board Member Ellins.

Ellins: Did we pay Best Friends to do this assessment?

Smith: So you’re shaking your head, just for the record, we did not pay them.
Ellins: Okay.

Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. All right with the three of us left then, any comments from the Board Members? No? Well we're already adjourned. Thank you all for joining us today. And thank you all for the input from the public and from officials in our various capacities.

VII. CHAIR AND BOARD COMMENTS

VII. Adjournment (11:50 AM)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

________________________________
Kasandra Gandara, Chairman

________________________________
Jack Eakman, Board Member

________________________________
Lynn Ellins, Board Member

________________________________
Ramon S. Gonzalez, Board Member

________________________________
Fernando R. Macias, Board Member

________________________________
Gregory Z. Smith, Board Member

ATTEST:

________________________________
Amanda Lopez Askin, County Clerk
MEMORANDUM

To: Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley Board of Supervisors
From: Maria Villa, Accounting Manager
Date: February 11, 2019


Attached are the unaudited financial results of the Animal Service Center operations for the period ending January 31, 2019, below are some observations for your consideration:

- The Statement of Net Position (page 1) shows a cash balance of $420,346 in the General Fund. There are outstanding account receivables in the amount of $88,776, $88,636 from Dona Ana County and $140 from Sunland Park. There are no outstanding accounts payable balances for the month. In addition, The General Fund has $52,882 in outstanding payroll liabilities.

- The Capital Projects Fund also on page 1 shows a cash balance of $610,756. There are no outstanding receivables in the Capital Fund. There are $77,000 in Revenues Collected in Advance for a PetSmart Grant that has not been expended.

- The Statement of Revenues and Expenditures (page 2) shows YTD operating revenues in the General Fund are $1,826,561. YTD operating expenditures are at $1,590,549 which results in an increase in Net Fund Balance of $236,012.

- The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget to Actual (page 3) indicates 62.7% of budgeted revenues and 52.9% of budgeted expenditures have been recognized. The current budget parameter for this month is 58.3%.

- Repair and maintenance expenditures were at 71.8%, or 13.5% above the budget point, this was due to the $6,696 vehicle work order repair, and the Warren Construction payment of $10,723 for the demolition and removal of the existing infirmary structure.
• The Grants and Donations Schedule on page 7 provides a summary of grants and donations received.

CC: Barbara De Leon, Interim Deputy Finance Director

CC: Amador Espinosa, Financial Reporting Analyst
### Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley
#### Statement of Net Position
##### January 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Fund 7440 General Fund</th>
<th>Fund 7441 Capital Projects</th>
<th>Fund 9440 Capital Assets</th>
<th>Statement of Net Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; investments</td>
<td>$420,346</td>
<td>$610,756</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,031,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>88,776</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>88,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>509,122</td>
<td>610,756</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,119,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capital Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment, net of accum depr</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>244,031</td>
<td>244,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>244,031</td>
<td>244,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$509,122</td>
<td>$610,756</td>
<td>$244,031</td>
<td>$1,363,909</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Liabilities | | | | |
| **Current Liabilities** | | | | |
| Accounts payable | | | | |
| Accrued Wages Payable | | | | |
| Accrued payroll liabilities | 52,882 | | 52,882 |
| Revenue Collected in Advance | | 77,000 | | 77,000 |
| **Total Current Liabilities** | 52,882 | 77,000 | | 129,882 |

| Fund Balance | | | | |
| Required reserve | 250,509 | | | 250,509 |
| Restricted | | 50,000 | | 50,000 |
| Unassigned | 205,731 | 483,756 | 244,031 | 933,518 |
| **Total Fund Balance** | 456,240 | 533,756 | 244,031 | 1,234,027 |

| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance | | | | |
| $509,122 | $610,756 | $244,031 | $1,363,909 |
Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,  
And Changes in Fund Balance  
For the Period Ended January 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Fund 7440 Actual</th>
<th>Capital Projects 7441 Actual</th>
<th>Fixed Assets 9440 Actual</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet licenses CLC</td>
<td>$ 21,684</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$ 21,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet licenses DAC</td>
<td>10,528</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
<td>11,214</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet micro-chip</td>
<td>12,505</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12,505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite adoptions</td>
<td>28,030</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>28,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to owner-Dona Ana Co</td>
<td>5,583</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to owner-City of Las Ctr</td>
<td>13,982</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spay/neuter</td>
<td>30,334</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dona Ana County</td>
<td>806,818</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>806,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Las Cruces</td>
<td>806,818</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>806,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Anthony</td>
<td>2,695</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; memorials</td>
<td>17,010</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Sunland Park</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Hatch</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>23,615</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>61,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>15,499</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td>1,826,561</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,902,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>1,073,887</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,073,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temp agency services</td>
<td>45,486</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>45,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>32,325</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>261,040</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>261,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>117,956</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>117,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>41,376</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18,479</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation &amp; amortization</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21,960</td>
<td>21,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital outlay</td>
<td></td>
<td>519,595</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>519,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditures</strong></td>
<td>1,590,549</td>
<td>519,595</td>
<td>21,960</td>
<td>2,132,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Operating Income (Loss)</strong></td>
<td>236,012</td>
<td>(481,595)</td>
<td>(21,960)</td>
<td>(267,543)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Change in Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>236,012</td>
<td>(481,595)</td>
<td>(21,960)</td>
<td>(267,543)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Investment in Capital Assets</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>220,228</td>
<td>1,015,351</td>
<td>265,991</td>
<td>1,501,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 456,240</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 533,756</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 244,031</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,234,027</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,  
And Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual  
For the Period Ended January 31, 2019 (Unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Actual/Bgt %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pet licenses CLC</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td>$ 21,684</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet licenses DAC</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>10,528</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinations</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>11,214</td>
<td>37.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pet micro-chip</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>12,505</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite adoptions</td>
<td>60,000</td>
<td>28,030</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to owner-Dona Ana County</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>5,583</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return to owner-City of Las Cruces</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>13,982</td>
<td>55.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spay/neuter</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>30,334</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dona Ana County</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
<td>806,818</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Las Cruces</td>
<td>1,250,000</td>
<td>806,818</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Anthony</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,695</td>
<td>89.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations &amp; memorials</td>
<td>33,619</td>
<td>17,010</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Sunland Park</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Hatch</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>23,000</td>
<td>23,615</td>
<td>102.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>15,499</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td>2,913,819</td>
<td>1,826,561</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Actual/Bgt %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>1,935,355</td>
<td>1,073,887</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temp agency services</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>45,486</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>32,325</td>
<td>71.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>451,000</td>
<td>261,040</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>237,119</td>
<td>117,956</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>85,129</td>
<td>41,376</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>61,000</td>
<td>18,479</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital outlay</td>
<td>91,500</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditures</strong></td>
<td>3,006,103</td>
<td>1,590,549</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net income (loss)         | (92,284) | 236,012  |
| Transfer to capital from operations | - | - |
| **Net change in fund balance** | $ (92,284) | 236,012  |
| **Beginning Fund Balance** |         | 220,228  |
| **Ending Fund Balance**   |         | $ 456,240|

3
Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley
Annual Budget vs. Actual Year -To- Date
January 31, 2019 - Revenues
Budget Parameter 58.3%
Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley
Annual Budget vs. Actual Year-To-Date
January 31, 2019 - Expenditures
Budget Parameter 58.3%
## Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley
### Grants and Donations Schedule
#### as of December 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Award Amount</th>
<th>Life-to-Date Expenditures</th>
<th>Remaining Balance</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7441</td>
<td>11627</td>
<td>STERN DONATION</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 50,000</td>
<td>Donation</td>
<td>Upon completion</td>
<td>The Kern donation provides funding strictly for costs associated with the renovation of the cat room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7441</td>
<td>11628</td>
<td>PETCO GRANT</td>
<td>$ 38,000</td>
<td>38,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>The grant funds support costs associated with constructing a new adoption lobby, office support space, and renovating existing admin area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7441</td>
<td>11732</td>
<td>PETSMART RENOVATION</td>
<td>$ 77,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 77,000</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>07/31/19</td>
<td>The grant funds will be used to construct and renovate the shelter infirmary area, i.e. concrete slab work, plumbing, electrical work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7440</td>
<td>11764</td>
<td>PETSMART</td>
<td>$ 20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>08/31/19</td>
<td>The grant funds support costs associated with transportation, vaccination, health certificates, medical treatment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF THE MESILLA VALLEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01


The governing board of the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley (ASCMV) is informed that:

WHEREAS, the financial statements of the ASCMV have been audited by CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM for the year ending June 30, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2018, the Office of the State Auditor received the ASCMV Audit Report submitted by CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM on behalf of the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Auditor has completed the review of the audit report required by Section 2.2.2.13 NMAC; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2018, The Office of the State Auditor released the audit report; and

WHEREAS, The ASCMV Annual Financial Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2018 is hereby presented for approval by the governing board of the ASCMV.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of February, 2019.

__________________________________________
Board Chairperson

MOVED BY: _____________________________

SECONDED BY: _________________________
VOTE:

Kassandra Gandara, Chair__________________________ __yea__ nay
Gregory Z. Smith, Vice-Chair__________________________ __yes__ nay
Jack Eakman, Member ________________________________ __yea__ nay
Lynn Ellins, Member ________________________________ __yea__ nay
Ramon S. Gonzalez, Member__________________________ __yea__ nay
Fernando R. Macias, Member__________________________ __yea__ nay
David Dollahon, Ex-Officio Member______________________ __yea__ nay

ATTEST:

______________________________________________
Amanda López Askin, Ph. D., County Clerk
Via Email

December 20, 2018

Rosie Duran, Director of Financial Services
Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley

rduran@las-cruces.org

Re: Authorization to Release FY2018 Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley Audit Report

The Office of the State Auditor ("Office") received the audit report for your agency on 12/4/2018. The Office has completed the review of the audit report required by Section 12-6-14(B) NMSA 1978 and 2.2.2.13 NMAC. This letter is your authorization to make the final payment to the Independent Public Accountant ("IPA") who contracted with your agency to perform the financial and compliance audit. In accordance with the audit contract, the IPA is required to deliver to the agency the number of copies of the report specified in the contract.

Pursuant to Section 12-6-5 NMSA 1978, the audit report does not become a public record until five days after the date of this release letter, unless your agency has already submitted a written waiver to the Office. Once the five-day period has expired, or upon the Office’s receipt of a written waiver:

- the Office will send the report to the Office to the Department of Finance and Administration, the Legislative Finance Committee and other relevant oversight agencies;
- the Office will post the report on its public website; and
- the agency and the IPA shall arrange for the IPA to present the report to the governing authority of the agency, per 2.2.2.10.M(4), at a meeting held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, if applicable.

The IPA’s findings and comments are included in the audit report on page 59. It is ultimately the responsibility of the governing authority of the agency to take corrective action on all findings and comments.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Johnson
State Auditor

cc: Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC