



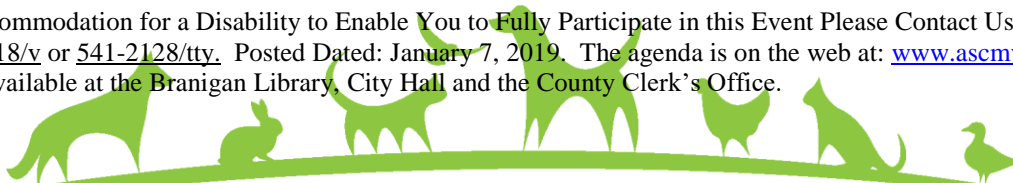
## **ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF THE MESILLA VALLEY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**
  - a. Resolution 2019-01 – Accept the Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2018.
  - 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**

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1 **ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF MESILLA VALLEY**

2  
3 **January 10, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.**

4  
5  
6 **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- 7 Jack Eakman - Board Member (departed 11:50)  
8 Lynn Ellins - Board Member  
9 Ramon S. Gonzalez, Board Member  
10 Fernando R. Macias - Board Member  
11 Gregory Z. Smith - Board Member  
12 David Dollahon - Ex-Officio Member (departed 11:18)

13  
14 **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- 15 Kasandra Gandara - Chair

16  
17 **I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance (9:03 PM)**

18  
19 Smith: I am going to be chairing today because Councilor Gandara is away.  
20 She's going to be trying to call in. It is 9:00 we're starting. I want to  
21 welcome from the Doña Ana County, our County Manager Fernando  
22 Macias and our newly elected for District 1, I believe, Commissioner Lynn  
23 Ellins, welcome to the Board gentlemen and thank you for joining us  
24 today. If they patch Chair Gandara in at some point we'll have to vote at  
25 that point to allow her to participate via telephone. But our first order of  
26 business is to stand together and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

27  
28 ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

29  
30 Smith: Thank you.

31  
32 **II. Roll Call of ASCMV Board Members and Determination of Quorum**

33  
34 Smith: Next we're going to be looking at on our agenda at the roll call to  
35 determine a quorum. Ms. Baum?

36  
37 Baum: Board Member Dollahon.

38  
39 Dollahon: Present.

40  
41 Baum: Board Member Macias.

42  
43 Macias: Present.

44  
45 Baum: Board Member Ellins.

1 Ellins: Here.  
2  
3 Baum: Board Member Gonzalez.  
4  
5 Gonzalez: Present.  
6  
7 Baum: Board Member Eakman.  
8  
9 Eakman: Here.  
10  
11 Baum: Board Member Smith.  
12  
13 Smith: Present.  
14  
15 Baum: Chairperson Gandara.  
16  
17 Smith: We don't have her yet.  
18  
19 Baum: Absent.  
20  
21 Smith: Thank you.

22  
23 **III. Changes to Agenda and Approval of Agenda**

24  
25 Smith: We have the agenda before us. Are there any suggestions for changes or  
26 a motion to approve?  
27  
28 Eakman: Move approval of the agenda as printed.  
29  
30 Gonzalez: Second.  
31  
32 Smith: Moved by Board Member Eakman and seconded by Board Member  
33 Gonzalez. Any discussion? All in favor?

34  
35 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

36  
37 Smith: Any opposed? Hearing none then the agenda is approved.

38  
39 **IV. Minutes**

40  
41 **A. Approval of the Minutes from the regular ASCMV Board Meeting held**  
42 **December 13, 2018**

43  
44 Smith: The next item on the agenda is the minutes, approval of minutes from our  
45 regular ASCMV Board meeting held December 13th. Given that there are  
46 four of us who were members at that point, we can vote on this particular

1 item, and of course those members who are new and weren't at that  
2 meeting will have to abstain.

3  
4 Eakman: Move approval.

5  
6 Smith: Thank you.

7  
8 Gonzalez: Second.

9  
10 Smith: Moved by Board Member Eakman and seconded by Board Member  
11 Gonzalez. Any discussion, changes, suggestions? No. All right. Then  
12 roll call please.

13  
14 Baum: Board Member Dollahon.

15  
16 Dollahon: Aye.

17  
18 Baum: Board Member Gonzalez.

19  
20 Gonzalez: Yes.

21  
22 Baum: Board Member Eakman.

23  
24 Eakman: Yes.

25  
26 Baum: Board Member Smith.

27  
28 Smith: Yes.

29  
30 Baum: Chairperson Gandara. No.

31  
32 Smith: And since that phone is ringing that may be her trying to come in. We will  
33 see if we. Okay, I thought it was a little different from our normal patch-in.

34  
35 **V. Reports/Presentations**

36  
37 **A. City and County ACO Reports - City and County Animal Control**

38  
39 Smith: All right. We have the City and County ACO reports and I believe the first,  
40 great the County will be first and we'll look forward to hearing. It looks like  
41 you've got some great accompaniment here today.

42  
43 Ward: Good morning Chair, Councilmen, and Board Members. Mary Lou Ward,  
44 Animal Control and Codes Supervisor for Doña Ana County. Let me see if  
45 I can get this going here. Okay, I'm going to go ahead and start with our  
46 December report for our Animal Control office. And I'll start out with the

1 number of animals that were picked up for animal control. We picked up  
2 229 animals for the month of December. And again I've been reporting  
3 these in the same format as Billy Garrett requested in the past, so if you  
4 look on the right hand side, that column right there is 198 versus the other  
5 column to the left or to the right I mean excuse me is 31. The 198 are the  
6 ones that actually got impounded into the shelter, the other side never  
7 made it to the shelter.

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

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

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

30 And then going into the other types of calls and statistics, we had  
31 912 Animal Control calls, 264 codes calls with a total of 1,176 calls for the  
32 month of December. Those are broken down, not in that exact number,  
33 but kind of the call types of what's been reported back to me that we've  
34 done; 57 injured animals, 12 cruelty calls, 68 vicious animals, 20 bites.  
35 And then educating, educated or we got compliance on 110 licensing/  
36 microchips and 59 permits, 110 rabies and then 92 care and maintenance.

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

45 This next chart is just a comparison chart from the years started in  
46 2014 all the way up until '18, just something that you can see for a

1 comparison. And then finally our overall 2018 stats, we responded to  
2 10,772 calls for service, 480 injured animals, 108 cruelty calls, 729 vicious  
3 animals calls, 338 bite calls and then we educated or got compliance on  
4 579 licensing, 422 permits, 606 rabies vaccinations and 945 care and  
5 maintenance. And with that I'll stand for questions.  
6  
7 Smith: Thank you Officer Ward. And do we have Chair Gandara on the phone  
8 now? Okay, I heard the phone noise and I thought maybe we did. All  
9 right. Any questions then for Officer Ward or Officer Adams or Officer  
10 Hulse? Yes, Board Member Gonzales and them Board Member Ellins.  
11  
12 Gonzalez: Ms. Ward. In regard to those 20 bite calls, how many were vaccinated?  
13  
14 Ward: On the bite for the month you mean?  
15  
16 Gonzalez: Yes.  
17  
18 Ward: I would have to go back and do the research for you and see. Those were  
19 the bites that were quarantined.  
20  
21 Gonzalez: Yes, because sometimes you know when you get bitten, you got a person  
22 who gets bitten they got to go get however many shots. But I was just  
23 wondering of those 20 animals who bit people or whoever they bit, I was  
24 just wondering how many of those dogs were vaccinated?  
25  
26 Ward: I can get that for you sir.  
27  
28 Gonzalez: Appreciate it. Thank you.  
29  
30 Smith: Thank you Officer Ward and Board Member Gonzalez. Board Member  
31 Ellins.  
32  
33 Ellins: On the last page, 10,772 calls for service. What does that mean?  
34  
35 Ward: Calls for service would be dispatch calls, agency assist calls, self-initiated  
36 calls where an officer is just driving by and seeing a violation, and CARFS,  
37 which are the Commissioner Action Request Forms for Doña Ana County.  
38  
39 Ellins: Okay. What do you attribute the increase this year for the Return to  
40 Owner statistics?  
41  
42 Ward: Actually I attribute it to the hard work of the department. We have a policy  
43 in our department that if we can safely return an animal to the owner in the  
44 field we do so. From years back we have new officers who really don't  
45 know any other way but to return them in the field. They don't know old

1 habits I guess you could say, so this is all they know is this is what we do  
2 is we return them in the field, if we can safely do so.  
3  
4 Ellins: Has there been a noticeable increase in microchipping which would add to  
5 this statistic?  
6  
7 Ward: Yes, I believe so.  
8  
9 Ellins: Okay. Thank you.  
10  
11 Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. And thank you Ms. Ward. Any other  
12 questions? Yes Mr. Macias.  
13  
14 Macias: Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate the  
15 County's department and the efforts that they've made. I think the  
16 statistics are significant in terms of the improvement. And I want to  
17 congratulate both of our Officers and encourage Officer Hulseley to not let  
18 Officer Adams win the most return a second year in a row. Thank you Mr.  
19 Chair.  
20  
21 Ward: Thank you.  
22  
23 Smith: Thank you Board Member Macias. I think healthy competition can be a  
24 very productive thing. Thank you all very much. We appreciate the report  
25 and the good work being done in the County ACO Office.  
26  
27 Ward: Thank you.  
28  
29 Smith: All right, thank you. Do we have someone from the City today?  
30  
31 Dollahon: Mr. Chairman. I made outreach to the Animal Control Chief and I haven't  
32 heard back from him.  
33  
34 Smith: All right. Well thank you Board Member Dollahon. We'll certainly weave  
35 them in later if they show up.  
36  
37 **B. Shelter Statistics and Activities/Educational and Spay-Neuter Initiatives**  
38 **- Clint Thacker**  
39  
40 Smith: Then our next item on the agenda is the Shelter statistics and activities.  
41 Director Thacker.  
42  
43 Thacker: Thank you, before I turn the time over, I would like to turn the time over to  
44 Mike Kinney, Project Manager for the City to give us a quick report on the  
45 building that's going on right now at the facility.  
46

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

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

29  
30 Smith: That's an important part of the project. Thank you Mr. Kinney. Any  
31 questions for Mr. Kinney? Board Member Gonzalez.

32  
33 Gonzalez: Yes, in regards you said last time that we met that you guys would be  
34 through by February, but now there are some delays now. Now it's going  
35 to be into March the finishing of the building.

36  
37 Kinney: Well the substantial completion date, which means substantial completion  
38 means it's basically ready for the user to use is presently scheduled for  
39 February 24th contractually. Realistically I think that we're probably going  
40 to be pushing that into March.

41  
42 Gonzalez: So are we thinking that we'll still be within budget going into March? You'll  
43 stay within budget maybe?

44  
45 Kinney: Yes, right now we are still within budget.  
46



1 Gonzalez: Okay. Thank you.  
2  
3 Smith: Certainly. Thank you Board Member Gonzalez. Any other questions for  
4 Mr. Kinney? All right Mr. Kinney thank you. That certainly relates to some  
5 of the things that we talked about at facilities and many of us have driven  
6 by, a couple of us have gone in and are impressed that that is moving  
7 along and looking so good. Thank you. All right, Mr. Thacker.  
8  
9 Thacker: Good morning Board.  
10  
11 Smith: Good morning.  
12  
13 Thacker: Thank you. Today for the Director's report we'll start off with some shelter  
14 statistics. In 2008 our intake 465 dogs, 224 cats, 11 others for a total of  
15 700 animals. Some of our intake versus 2017 the same time period, 2017  
16 had 767 and 2018 we had 700. In our industry this is pretty much a  
17 straight wash as far as the same. It's so close if it's under that hundred  
18 mark we usually just call it the same amount of intake.  
19 December outcomes, we had 261 adoptions, 103 reclaims, which is  
20 owners coming and getting their animals. We had 122 animals rescued,  
21 which is animals taken by specific rescue entities throughout the nation,  
22 where we send them out to, so these are specified groups generally and  
23 they are a 501(c)(3) and they have more time to get these animals out into  
24 good homes and hold them for longer. Some of the rescues, it's called  
25 foster based, and foster is when you take an animal, you don't adopt it but  
26 you take it just to give more room for other animals to come in. So we had  
27 122 go out to rescues. We euthanized 186 animals and that's 26.6% that  
28 came in that were euthanized with the intake. And the live release rate is  
29 the other number, percentage of animals that leave the shelter alive that  
30 come in so 72.5% total of the animals that came in in December left alive.  
31 Now this compares to 2017 of the same time period. In 2018 we  
32 did much more adoptions 261, reclaims again owners coming in to get  
33 their animals 103, and rescued; see in 2017 there is a huge jump and that  
34 is, we believe it's because 2017 when I first came on in November/  
35 December time, we really opened up the flood gates for all the rescues to  
36 come back that were not allowed to rescue before, to come in and take  
37 animals. We had a euthanasia rate of 11.6% in 2017. In 2018 we have  
38 26.6%, live release rate 88.88%, and 2018 is 72.5%, so we did dip down a  
39 little bit.  
40  
41 Smith: Mr. Thacker if I can stop you there just because we have new members of  
42 the Board. This is a lot of the crux of what we were talking about when  
43 we're talking about the Animal Services Center and I just want to be sure  
44 that if there's any questions or aspects to this that need clarification that  
45 we go ahead and catch that early. Yes, Board Member Eakman.  
46

1 Eakman: If I could ask one right now. Of the cats that were euthanized how many  
2 were ear tipped?  
3

4 Thacker: That I do not have the information for, but we can get it for you. That is  
5 included in our yearly annual report. It shows that if we did do trap,  
6 neuter, return program or community cat program what our live release  
7 rate would have been. So I can show you that in 2017 in our Annual  
8 Report.  
9

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

11

12 Thacker: Okay.

13

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

16

17 Ellins: What were the main causes for the euthanasias?  
18

19 Thacker: So euthanasia, the main causes is we medical, it could be not responding  
20 to treatments for the medical, it could be aggression, other reasons are  
21 the medical, aggression, overall health. So it's very rarely do we  
22 euthanize a healthy adoptable animal just for space.  
23

24 Smith: And do we have a chart later on in your presentation that shows the  
25 reasons this time Mr. Thacker? I know sometimes we do, but that might  
26 be helpful to Board Member Ellins and Board Member Macias as we go  
27 forward.  
28

29 Thacker: We do not have a list of the reasons why, however and again in the  
30 Annual Report we have reasons why they're euthanized all broken down  
31 that we can do that with.  
32

33 Smith: Okay.

34

35 Ellins: Well I'm a seven-year Board Member of Safe Haven so I have a dedicated  
36 interest in these issues.  
37

38 Thacker: Absolutely. That's great. Thank you.  
39

40 Ellins: Thank you.

41

42 Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. Thank you Mr. Thacker.  
43

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

1 current, that's right. So January, 2018 is 677 animals, and current now is  
2 595. I apologize.

3 We have a volunteer program at the center that we love and the  
4 volunteers we could not do it without them. Here's a picture of a photo  
5 session going on for our 12 Dogs of Christmas. We did, again, our  
6 volunteers are priceless for what they do for us. Some of the hours that  
7 our volunteers put in, a total of 441 hours and volunteers were 265 that we  
8 have currently on the books right now. Those are some hours that they  
9 used. The biggest one of note is the Farmers and Petco adoptions. The  
10 incredible help that we get there, we would not be able to go to those off-  
11 site locations if it wasn't for the volunteers that help out. They walk dogs,  
12 answer questions, and get animals the attention that they need there.  
13 Same thing with the Pet's Barn and Petco, the cat care teams we have  
14 cats that are housed there, so they go in and clean the cats, feed the cats  
15 and make sure their information is up-to-date. County Cats are the cats  
16 that are at the County Building and fabulous program there. Did you  
17 know, I'll speak to the City representatives right now, that it's been proven  
18 that having an animal decreases stress? So the County lets you rent for a  
19 small amount of time, a cat that you can take back to your office and love  
20 it and pet it and then you can take it back. So I'm just saying you should  
21 think about that in the City as well.  
22

23 Smith: Thank you Mr. Thacker. I think that the people of the County have  
24 certainly been lauding the benefits of that being there for a few years now  
25 and certainly Becky at the entrance to the County Building has been quite  
26 an advocate for that. Thank you.  
27

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

45 So our spay and neuter initiatives; currently we have 165 animals in  
46 the Foster to Adopt Program. Foster to Adopt Program is where an

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

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

16  
17 Smith: Mr. Thacker. Hold on just a minute please.

18  
19 Thacker: Yes.

20  
21 Smith: Yes. Board Member Ellins. You're going to have to push the button  
22 again. Thank you Board Member Gonzalez.

23  
24 Ellins: Is that the feral cat program?

25  
26 Thacker: Yes it is.

27  
28 Ellins: Okay, thank you.

29  
30 Thacker: So the public 132, adoptive is 113, shelter animals is 128, total of 373  
31 enclosed surgeries also included the cryptorchid, the pregnant, the eye  
32 enucleations, amputations, and laceration repairs for that.

33 Some of our initiatives that we do; visitors at the center we have for  
34 the adoption office people specifically came in was a total of 1,484. Over  
35 1,100 of those are people looking to adopt animals; 233 for the medical;  
36 and then other reasons. So let me back up a little bit. When somebody  
37 comes into the center they have to sign in and then they have to state why  
38 they're there. So the number you're seeing there is a general number. It's  
39 not exact because some people; one might have a husband and wife that  
40 come in and only one of them sign, might have wife and husband and the  
41 whole family looking for adoption, or mom and kids, so that number is  
42 much higher than the number there. This was just a hard count of what  
43 actually signed.

44 This is on the reclaim area of the shelter. In other words, people  
45 looking for their lost animals, so 435 came in for that, 109 found a stray  
46 animal that they needed to give over to the center for that. And then the

1 other big number there is 248 for medical reasons. For our vaccines that  
2 we do we vaccinate upon intake or when the animal comes into the center  
3 we vaccinate. And then if they adopt the animal and their vaccines are not  
4 taken care of yet, we will finish off that round of vaccines for them. That's  
5 included in the adoption program. So that's why that return to medical.  
6 Also if anything if is adopted, if our Medical Director deems something  
7 that's adoptable, but has a medical condition, then we'll also treat that  
8 medical condition so they can bring the animal back. So that's why there's  
9 that larger number for that. Total visitors are 2,530 in the shelter in one  
10 day or in one month.

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

45 Our continued community outreach is we have great relationships  
46 with radio stations, 101Gold, Magic105, Zia Country. I was actually able

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

17  
18 Smith: Mr. Thacker. Since there are varying categories for seniors, which age  
19 group does this include do you know? Some of us are seniors at 50, 55,  
20 60, 65.

21  
22 Thacker: I once made a person cry if I asked them if they qualified as a senior  
23 citizen so I shy away from the number, but it is 65 years old.

24  
25 Smith: Thank you.

26  
27 Thacker: So another community outreach that we're doing and this is included in  
28 one of our Facebook videos that we did, is if you remember the cold spell  
29 that we had at night the temperatures were down to the early 20's so we  
30 acted fast. I know that El Paso Animal Control was getting even colder  
31 temperatures than we were getting so they were able to relocate some of  
32 their outside animals into a whole warehouse is where they relocated. We  
33 didn't have that luxury nor that amount of time, so we took our intake area,  
34 which is the outside area of the center and we enclosed it in the tarps and  
35 we have heaters inside those areas. Significantly took the chill away from  
36 those animals. We put it out on Facebook to accept donations. We had  
37 propane tanks delivered to us. We had heaters that you screw on to the  
38 top of the propane tanks delivered to us. It was a great response. We  
39 had one person, a dear friend of the Shelter, call and paid \$100 worth in  
40 propane refills and that was one day with all of our propane that we were  
41 putting out. So that was a huge help. It's great to have a community that  
42 is willing to help in some way. So we appreciate that.

43 The staff also loves; one the animals are getting care, but also they  
44 have a warm place for them to be as well when they're dealing with the  
45 animals. It was so cold at this time that when we would draw up the, we  
46 found we were drawing up the vaccines that they are starting to crystallize

1 when you would pull them out through the syringe, because the needle  
2 was so cold and so thin that the cold effects it so fast, so the staff had to,  
3 you have to keep those refrigerated, but not to the point where they are  
4 freezing. So we had to keep an eye on that and well balanced, so they  
5 were okay when they were giving the vaccines. We did work on that and  
6 we responded well to that.

7 Some of our cats and dogs that are in the shelter. You know just  
8 really quick, I want to point out that sometimes people think that Center  
9 animals or animals from the Animal Services Center, there's a reason why  
10 they're there. They're broken and there's something wrong with them and  
11 it's just not the case. Generally these animals are healthy. They are just  
12 there because somebody didn't come and pick them up. They're there  
13 because somebody didn't want them. It's incredible the beautiful animals  
14 that we have at the center and I urge everybody before buying an animal,  
15 a puppy online or going to a pet store, to come see the animals at the  
16 Mesilla Valley Animal Center. You will fall in love I promise you. And  
17 that's the end of my slide show that I have. Any questions?  
18

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

20  
21 Gonzalez: In regard to your volunteers, have you got new volunteer workers helping  
22 you?  
23

24 Thacker: Do we have new ones?  
25

26 Gonzalez: Yes and expansion of it.  
27

28 Thacker: I would have to say that "yes" we get volunteer applications every single  
29 day.  
30

31 Gonzalez: What's the total right now?  
32

33 Thacker: I believe it was 265 our total volunteer numbers right now.  
34

35 Gonzalez: And you guys are coping pretty well with that group?  
36

37 Thacker: We always like more.  
38

39 Gonzalez: Of course.  
40

41 Thacker: People like to sign up and they like to say that they volunteer however  
42 we've never seen them. So it may say 265, but really I would say a core  
43 group of a solid 30 to 40 people that really help us.  
44

45 Gonzalez: Are you guys going to promote that out there for advertise it for help?  
46

1 Thacker: Yes. We have a volunteer coordinator. That's her job to coordinate those  
2 efforts and to recruit volunteers.  
3

4 Gonzalez: Thank you.  
5

6 Smith: Thank you Board Member Gonzalez. Board Member Ellins.  
7

8 Ellins: The Dog Enrichment Program, would you tell me what that is? I think I  
9 know, but tell me what it is.  
10

11 Thacker: ACM Dog Enrichment, so at the Center we have, and that number is going  
12 to grow and I'm going to tell you why, but volunteers come out they walk  
13 dogs, they socialize with the dogs, they do anything they can.  
14

15 Ellins: I got it.  
16

17 Thacker: We are going to be doing, I believe I told the Board last month, but the  
18 State of New Mexico was selected to get free training from Let them Play,  
19 this is an organization that does, it's called Play Groups. What you do is  
20 you bring dogs out into a large area and you let them play and you let  
21 them have fun. An hour worth of a playgroup is the same as a three-hour  
22 walk to the mind of a dog because you can imagine how boring it is sitting  
23 in a cell pretty much, in a kennel and they don't get that mind exercise.  
24 But being with other dogs they get that pack exercise and so we'll be  
25 receiving that at the end of January for free.  
26

27 Ellins: I take my dogs to doggy day care.  
28

29 Thacker: Excellent.  
30

31 Ellins: I understand. It strikes me though that four is a very very low number.  
32

33 Thacker: Very low number yes. One reason is that is because anybody who wants  
34 to walk a dog has to go through a training because shelter dogs are  
35 different than a dog that gets to go walk every single day. These dogs are  
36 ecstatic to get out. They're hyper, they're jumping all over the place. So it  
37 is that they have to go, they have to sit, people have to come and sit  
38 through an hour training to walk large dogs and that is both classroom and  
39 it's also hands on training for that.  
40

41 Smith: And Mr. Thacker I would like to point out to Board Member Ellins that one  
42 of the discussions that we've had with the GO Bonds that we passed at  
43 the City was that one of them would be going towards park expansion or  
44 opportunities. And one of the things that we've talked about is having  
45 another dog park, a larger one, and possibly locating it adjacent to the  
46 Animal Services Center so that that could be used for those activities as



1 well as being located where other people can access it because that is  
2 such an important part of what they do, but also what we do with our  
3 animals. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Thacker. Other questions or  
4 comments? All right seeing none. Thank you Mr. Thacker.  
5

6 **C. Committee Reports**

7  
8 **1. Finance - David Dollahon, Committee Chair**

9  
10 Smith: We'll go on then to the committee reports. The first one is Finance, Board  
11 Member Dollahon, oh I'm sorry Mr. Saffell.  
12

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

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

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

31 Here we show our actual revenues compared to the budget. The  
32 actual revenues of \$1.6 million.  
33

34 Smith: Mr. Saffell for those who are new to this. This is on page four of the  
35 packet that we have. Thank you.  
36

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

41 On our next slide, this will be page five in your packets, this is our  
42 expenditure comparison. We can see again that our parameter was about  
43 50%. The majority of expenses are below that. The only one that's really  
44 high that we can see would be repairs and maintenance is at 61.3% of  
45 budget. That was due to a necessary vehicle repair as well as some

1 construction or rather destruction of the infirmary to remove that to make  
2 way for construction there.

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

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

13  
14 Smith: Thank you Mr. Saffell. Questions for Mr. Saffell? Yes, Board Member  
15 Ellins.

16  
17 Ellins: What is the Fiscal Year?

18  
19 Saffell: The Fiscal Year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

20  
21 Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. Thank you Mr. Saffell. Seeing no other  
22 questions. Thank you Mr. Saffell.

23  
24 Dollahon: Mr. Chairman.

25  
26 Smith: Yes, Board Member Dollahon.

27  
28 Dollahon: The Finance Committee did not have regular meeting due to the Holidays  
29 and conflicting calendars. We have our next Finance Committee meeting  
30 next week. That will be myself and staff and Councilor Eakman. We have  
31 Board appointments next month for Committee appointments unless  
32 somebody wants to volunteer. And we'll need to also discuss readjusting  
33 the schedule once we know who the other representative from the  
34 subcommittee will be, but we can do that in February. But we're looking  
35 for a volunteer from the County for next week's meeting. Also we will be  
36 presenting at the February meeting the formal adoption of the ASCMV  
37 CAFR because that has been authorized for release and adoption and  
38 then that will adjust our trial balances as part of that.

39  
40 Smith: Thank you Mr. Dollahon. Volunteers of course are important at every  
41 level. Yes, Board Member Eakman.

42  
43 Eakman: Yes, if I might. The previous member was Commissioner Garrett, a very  
44 valuable member, and so we'd really be looking forward to someone  
45 joining us. Thank you.

46

1 Smith: Thank you Board Member Eakman.

2

3

**2. Executive - Kassandra Gandara, Committee Chair**

4

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

15

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

23

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

27

28

**3. Facilities - Greg Smith, Committee Chair**

29

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

38

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

40

41 Smith: It's coming back to me now.

42

43 Thacker: Yes. Just yesterday I had a meeting with the firm ECM I believe that's  
44 handling all of the GO Bond programs. So then what they're going to do is  
45 they're going to look over the RFP and that's going to be going out and

1 then meetings to discuss the RFP start the end of this month. And the  
2 RFP is for architectural design not for construction at this point.  
3  
4 Smith: Thank you.  
5  
6 Thacker: I am very confident when with meeting with them. They were speaking  
7 names that I love to hear you know Specific Exhaust, Air Exchange, and  
8 they had architects already in mind that they contacted and I looked them  
9 up and they are all specialized in animal centers. So I'm very very happy  
10 to see those things.  
11  
12 Smith: Excellent. And Tony Trevino will be our staff member from the City who  
13 will be in charge of that project, but yes it goes to the GO Bond. So that  
14 will be the new building that we'll be looking at constructing in the next  
15 couple of years that will then take much of the operation that's in the  
16 current building and move it to a new location on the property.  
17  
18 Dollahon: Mr. Chairman.  
19  
20 Smith: The kennel area, the lower area where there was previously a building  
21 that was being used, that's been torn down and the slab is to be poured  
22 and we're expecting the kennels to be complete by the end of March?  
23 Was that correct?  
24  
25 Thacker: I'd probably push that more to April.  
26  
27 Smith: Okay.  
28  
29 Thacker: I heard from the City and the City is doing the surveying on Monday and  
30 then after that they have to get contact also another quote with civil  
31 engineers to look for a slab design because it has to have the proper pitch  
32 and drainage and also sewer connection things like that, but we are going  
33 forward and ordering the kennels because they're an eight-week out  
34 process lead time. We have to do that, so look forward to that.  
35  
36 Smith: And one other thing that you may have mentioned to the Finance  
37 Committee was the need for temporary storage, maintenance and  
38 recovery rooms. It had been suggested that those might be done in  
39 shipping containers as a way of getting them in place quickly and the  
40 thought was that it would probably cost at least \$45,000 to put all those in  
41 place. Mr. Dollahon was that shared with you?  
42  
43 Dollahon: Mr. Chairman. That was shared with me and we'll discuss it at next  
44 week's Finance Committee meeting. I did want to further expand on  
45 Clint's comments related to the RFP. So ECM is the City's GO Bond  
46 performance manager for the overall GO Bond projects, and we have four

1 questions under the GO Bond. They will be aiding the City in selecting  
2 both the architectural firm for the ASCMV and the fire station and other  
3 projects as well as the ultimate design, the contractor once the design is  
4 done.

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

15  
16 Smith: Thank you for those clarifications Mr. Dollahon. The last thing I have is  
17 that the stucco is expected to be going up soon, perhaps this week. Has  
18 that changed or has that been moved back also?

19  
20 Thacker: That's changed as well yes. It's going to be a little bit longer on that.

21  
22 Smith: All right. Well as we see the structure, the shape, the insulation board and  
23 those things going up we're getting a good sense of how that's going to  
24 look. And the stucco or course will help seal that up and make it look  
25 appropriate. Mr. Bryce did you have something you wanted to add?

26  
27 Bryce: Frank Bryce, President Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Don't  
28 usually get involved in the financials too much, but it surprised me to hear,  
29 and I think we might be able to get a clarification, that the City was  
30 supposed to pay for the removal of that old building. The one that was  
31 such a problem, the infirmary, but according to what I just heard it's  
32 coming out of your budget. I don't think that's what the City agreed to do  
33 and so I had asked him out in the hall, I think they're ready to give us a  
34 clarification. But the City said they would pay for removal of that building  
35 and then the rest of the work would come out of the Shelter budget. I just  
36 wanted to find out what the situation was on that. Thank you.

37  
38 Smith: Thank you Mr. Bryce. Mr. Thacker.

39  
40 Thacker: Yes, the amount of money, the \$13,900 was given to the Center between  
41 the budget increase that I requested. So yes it did come from the City and  
42 County and it was out of our budget, but it was an increase.

43  
44 Smith: Okay. Mr. Bryce does that explain how that worked to you? You can nod  
45 your head if it does or.

46

1 Bryce: Frank Bryce. It doesn't clarify what I heard in the hallway. If Mr. Thacker,  
2 is he saying that the money was given by the City to pay for that so it  
3 increased the budget and it is covered by the City? If that's the way it's  
4 understood then I do understand it. It was not said in the hallway about  
5 that.

6  
7 Smith: Okay, well Mr. Thacker and Mr. Dollahon are probably going to be able to  
8 clarify this more easily than I will, but my understanding of what Mr.  
9 Thacker said was that there was an increase from both the City and the  
10 County and that that increase included the \$13,900 that was needed to  
11 demolish the existing structure, the old wooden structure there. Mr.  
12 Dollahon did you have any clarification on that?

13  
14 Dollahon: Mr. Chairman. Clint and I will discuss it and we'll follow-up. I hate getting  
15 old. My memory is changing so or fading, so we'll follow-up.

16  
17 Smith: Just wait until you're a senior. All right, thank you Mr. Dollahon, any other  
18 questions regarding the Facilities Report?

19  
20 **D. Zero in 7 Update**

21  
22 Smith: All right. Then Ms. Gilbert I believe you are going to share with us the  
23 Zero in Seven Update.

24  
25 Gilbert: Good morning. I'm Jean Gilbert, Secretary for the Coalition for Pets and  
26 People with our January report. Here is the mission statement for the  
27 coalition and it was adopted in March of 2017. I'll give you a minute to  
28 read it. Here's a listing of community organizations that the Coalition  
29 represents.

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

39 We've held four social dinners this year, so we've held them pretty  
40 much quarterly. We're actively involved in microchipping, whether it's with  
41 ACES, Action Programs for Animals, Tails has held some check-the-chip  
42 events as well. The Coalition held two information and outreach tables,  
43 one was at the City Volunteer Fair and the other one was at the  
44 Dog'Cruces Pet Expo. We've had two radio appearances on the  
45 Community Radio Station, KTAL and we had great representation at the  
46 fostering forum. A couple of things I've overlooked that I didn't get

1 included on this slide unfortunately is that Tom Townsend was with the  
2 Coalition was the administrator for the Community Cat Grant and the  
3 agent for that was APA and that was for the spay and neuter this past year  
4 of 500 cats, and the majority of those were feral cats. And then one other  
5 thing that was overlooked on this listing is that the Coalition was actively  
6 involved in promotion of getting the GO Bond passed. If I'm moving too  
7 quickly or if there's questions, please let me know.  
8

9 Ellins: I have a question Mr. Chairman.

10 Smith: All right thank you. Board Member Ellins.

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

12  
13 Gilbert: Safe Haven was one of the speakers at the Fostering Forum and that was  
14 Tricia Quillen. Tricia Quillen hosts animal affairs radio and there will be a  
15 slide on that in a minute. That's the second bullet from the bottom there.  
16 And it was Tricia Quillen who invited the Chair Rick Hahn and for a radio  
17 appearance and she also invited me for another session. So the short  
18 answer to that is very involved, yes.  
19  
20

21 Ellins: Thank you.

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

23  
24 Gilbert: Here are some upcoming activities and obviously this can't be a complete  
25 listing. We list them on Facebook and we also post flyers as they come to  
26 us. And I'll give you a minute to read these. The Coalition will hold a  
27 meeting Tuesday, January 29th and we're meeting at the Coop  
28 Community Room that will be at 6:30 p.m. And SNAP has an upcoming  
29 spay/neuter clinic as does APA with the vaccination and microchip in  
30 Doña Ana County.  
31

32 I'll start now on the report for The Humane Society of Southern New  
33 Mexico and I'm on the board and a humane educator with HSSNM. And  
34 the picture on the left is the Boys and Girls Club. We're in our 11th year of  
35 working with the Boys and Girls Club. Those are some of the dog  
36 ambassadors and humane educators that work in our program. The photo  
37 on the right our program Forever Friends is in a lot of the schools and this  
38 is a picture at Highland Elementary with their kindergarten class. There  
39 were about 12 sessions that were Holiday related and 16 that were not, so  
40 there were 28 sessions in last month. Here you'll see a breakdown of the  
41 number of humane education sessions as well as some of our other stats  
42 for the Humane Society. Our pet helpline, we get a huge range of calls  
43 and Frank Bryce can speak to that, but these are a couple of animals that  
44 came to the helpline. One is a dog here, Vagabond, whose being  
45 sponsored by one of our board members and then this cat, I think you  
46

1 remember meeting Jeff Murphy who's on our Board of Directors and this  
2 situation came to him, this cat was hung from a tree by its leg and rescued  
3 so it's very very disturbing. But anyway, there's a breakdown of our stats,  
4 adoptions, pet helpline calls, humane education sessions. We have a  
5 Cans for Critters Program that we're very proud of. We've raised over  
6 \$8,000 since 2012. And also very proud of our microchip numbers as  
7 well.

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

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

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



1 third year for it. But I know I like to go every year and I believe I'm  
2 sporting a bracelet from Kitty Glitter too.

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 And this is the vouchers for the Senior Program that Clint talked  
45 about with photos of some of the pets that were adopted that were  
46 sponsored or partially sponsored by this program. And the other program

1 that Doña Ana County Humane Society does is they do their Ruff to  
2 Ready Program and they help shelter animals that need behavior training  
3 and so there were 31 dogs helped this past year through that program and  
4 some of the dogs do come from the community and these are animals that  
5 could be in danger of being taken to the shelter so it's an excellent pet  
6 retention program.

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

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

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

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

43 The Las Cruces Pet Network advocates for animals through social  
44 media and e-mail distribution and here are pictures of some animals that  
45 we are trying to help. This mom dog and pups get into foster placement  
46 and then these two found dogs, the shepherd and the lab, are dogs that

1 were found and that a resident in the community is holding to try to re-  
2 unite with the family. I believe that's the end of the presentation, if you  
3 have any questions or comments.  
4  
5 Smith: Thank you so much Ms. Gilbert. Questions, comments for Ms. Gilbert?  
6  
7 Dollahon: Jean don't forget about Last Litter.  
8  
9 Gilbert: Pardon?  
10  
11 Dollahon: Don't forget about the Last Litter.  
12  
13 Gilbert: Of course, thank you.  
14  
15 Smith: Thank you Mr. Dollahon.  
16  
17 Gilbert: I would have too. My question is how to get out of this? Do I go to  
18 escape?  
19  
20 Smith: Mr. Thacker to the rescue.  
21  
22 VIDEO PLAYED OF LAST LITTER INN.  
23  
24 Smith: Thank you Ms. Gilbert. And thank you to all those who participated in that  
25 effort. I believe Board Member Macias had a question is that correct?  
26 You looked like you had a thought bubble.  
27  
28 Macias: Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask perhaps some questions. I don't know  
29 if it was better placed to Ms. Gilbert or actually to Mr. Thacker. So just as  
30 a preface, if you would permit Mr. Chairman, let's see in my household  
31 there are three dogs, six canaries, a giant tortoise by the name of  
32 Hercules and 16 turtles, so obviously it's a house that welcomes all kinds  
33 of animals. One of my daughters worked for a number of years at  
34 Calista's Animal Hospital and so is very well connected with not only the  
35 staff at the Shelter, but a lot of the programs that lead to fostering animals.  
36 And so we were asked and accepted the invitation to foster, I think it was  
37 six kittens initially and so it was almost like taking care of babies. That  
38 was what it was reminiscent of, every three hours feeding, getting up  
39 through the night doing all of that, but ultimately all six of them died, even  
40 Moses who was the only one that we gave a name to because it was the  
41 largest and we thought it would have the greatest capacity to survive.  
42 We fostered another group that were a little bit older kittens, and  
43 five or let's see, four out of the six survived and actually we worked to help  
44 get them all adopted, those that survived. But it struck me that, especially  
45 in the first litter that they were so diseased, there was almost no likely-  
46 hood of survival, but yet they were fostered out. So I'm curious, and not

1 from a negative perspective, just how this influences some of the numbers  
2 that are presented to us in terms of where those litters or animals that are  
3 taken into some form of foster care, but that do not survive, where are  
4 those numbers? Because in reality it struck me from that experience that  
5 really it would have been better to have euthanized the animals rather  
6 than to have fostered and prolonged that period. And when we went back  
7 and had a discussion with the staff at the Animal Shelter we suggested  
8 why there wasn't a little bit more candor and a little bit more disclosure in  
9 terms of what was the likelihood of survival from all of the effort that was  
10 going to be put into caring for the animals. So when I hear Ms. Gilbert talk  
11 about, and I know that it's very positive and I'm not trying to be negative,  
12 very positive about everything that's going on, it strikes me that there has  
13 to be a certain population that technically don't make it into the listing of  
14 animals that were euthanized, but still did not survive. Where are those  
15 numbers and how significant is that issue?

16  
17 Thacker: If I can ask, how long ago was that?

18  
19 Macias: Just this past fall.

20  
21 Thacker: Okay, so that was before or about the same time that our Medical Director  
22 came on, Dr. Baiz, and she has changed the way we do those types of  
23 things. Everything is evaluated by her before it leaves the door. So if that  
24 was the case, now they would be told that the mortality rate is very high  
25 for kittens, especially when there's no mom. It's very very high. The  
26 likelihood of them passing away is higher than for them to live and make it  
27 through without the mom. Also the sick and diseased is very worrisome  
28 because you would have never gotten them now. If you came in and said  
29 to foster these, they never would have been given to you if they were that  
30 bad and that diseased. They would have been euthanized, either that or a  
31 rescue be contacted for that, but they wouldn't be foster candidates.

32  
33 Macias: Well let me suggest that whatever your current operation is, that's during  
34 the same timeframe that we did this fostering. So the question that I'm  
35 asking is, how pronounced and what kind of numbers, like those six  
36 kittens I believe that we took all of those that passed back to the shelter.  
37 And so how are those counted in your numbers? That's actually what my  
38 bottom line question is.

39  
40 Thacker: And they would have been brought back into the Center, in other words in  
41 the Shelter software and they would have been "died in care" or "other" is  
42 how they would have been accounted for.

43  
44 Macias: I didn't see that number. I didn't see a specific listing for that number in  
45 your presentation.

46

1 Thacker: Correct. Yes. We can show that for you if you would like to or an idea of  
2 it.  
3

4 Macias: No, I'm just curious what.  
5

6 Thacker: Bernice, am I mistaken as to where they would have been found?  
7

8 Smith: Ms. Navarro maybe you should come to the microphone so we can have it  
9 on record thank you.  
10

11 Navarro: The number that die in care, anything; that is shown in our annual report  
12 every year. Our monthly reports we have to only pull so much information.  
13 Otherwise we would be just overwhelmed with all of the specific numbers.  
14 Things like the euthanasia reasons, things like that, you see that  
15 information in our quarterly reports, but the final numbers of those is  
16 highlighted in each annual report. So we do disclose those numbers also,  
17 it's just we don't present them at every monthly meeting.  
18

19 Macias: So and there isn't an idea of what number may be or what percentage or  
20 what it would add to the number that are euthanized, because I think the  
21 point is really we're losing a lot more animals than what people tend to  
22 look at the list of animals that are euthanized and they go, "Oh, we're  
23 losing that and that represents a certain percentage", but in reality, I'm  
24 under the impression that we lose far more and that it's a bigger problem  
25 than what perhaps sometimes is presented.  
26

27 Thacker: Obviously it's an increase in numbers, but I wouldn't say it's much larger.  
28 We can be more THAN comfortable in presenting those numbers on a  
29 monthly basis, if that's something you would like to see for you a total, but  
30 I wouldn't say it's a huge increase for them.  
31

32 Macias: Thank you. Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to note that although I haven't  
33 had these discussions with either of the two Commissioners that are here  
34 or actually there was a third one in the audience, but the County Manager  
35 is really looking at a far more aggressive manner of intervening out in the  
36 County and the unincorporated areas in terms of numbers of animals that  
37 are being taken into custody. A more aggressive approach to spay and  
38 neuter that we'll be presenting to the Commission in the hopefully not too  
39 distant future.  
40

41 Smith: Well thank you Board Member Macias. Appreciate that, Board Member  
42 Ellins.  
43

44 Ellins: Just to follow-up. You said that some of the animals are returned if they  
45 die in foster care to the Shelter so you can get an accurate count?  
46

1 Thacker: Yes, the animals in foster care, the animals are still our property, so they  
2 have to be returned back. So the way our shelter software works is that  
3 we outcome them in foster care, and when they come back in we bring  
4 them back into the software as foster return and then outcome them again  
5 as a "died in care."  
6

7 Ellins: Do the fosters always return?  
8

9 Thacker: As far as I know, yes. They may not return the body to us, but they'll call  
10 and let us know that it's happened. If not, if the file goes untouched for a  
11 while, we'll contact them and we'll find out what happened to them.  
12

13 Ellins: Okay, thank you.  
14

15 Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. Board Member Gonzalez you looked  
16 like you were reaching for the button.  
17

18 Gonzalez: Ms. Gilbert, what is your way of revenue, of running your care program?  
19

20 Gilbert: Are you referring to the Coalition for Pets and People?  
21

22 Gonzalez: The Zero in Seven.  
23

24 Gilbert: The Coalition for Pets and People is basically an umbrella. We represent  
25 all the organizations here in Las Cruces. We are not a 501(c)(3), but we  
26 are like I say, an umbrella and any money that we do raise, we raise under  
27 the 501(c)(3) of the Humane Society, which is where our accounting is  
28 kept. I don't know, were you talking about a specific project or something  
29 for fundraising?  
30

31 Gonzalez: No, just your overall, you updated so much activities going on and  
32 reaching out to the public, I was just wondering about your revenue.  
33 Conducting all your services and reaching out to the community. I was  
34 just wondering where you reach out for your revenue? Where does it  
35 come from you know?  
36

37 Gilbert: Our work is with all of the organizations and so they are all 501(c)(3)s and  
38 they raise their own money. Just to say, Safe Haven does through their  
39 thrift store all the organizations have different means. Many of them raise  
40 their funds through events, special events.  
41

42 Gonzalez: Well, thank you for what you do. It's gratifying that you really reach out to  
43 our community.  
44

45 Gilbert: Thank you very much.  
46

1 Gonzalez: Thank you very much.  
2  
3 Gilbert: I think we can be very proud of all the organizations here. They are all  
4 heavy lifters and work very very hard and it has certainly made a  
5 difference. I know I have been involved in the animal welfare community  
6 here in Las Cruces 35 years and the difference is huge. It really is.  
7  
8 Gonzalez: Well you're the hard rock of all of us, so good job.  
9  
10 Gilbert: Thank you  
11  
12 Gonzalez: Continue.  
13  
14 Smith: Thank you Board Member Gonzalez. Thank you Ms. Gilbert. Any other  
15 questions or comments? Mr. Bryce. And we will have a public comment  
16 period after this.  
17  
18 Bryce: Frank Bryce, President Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. I just  
19 thought it was a good opportunity to bring up the issue. On the Coalition,  
20 donations are made to us as a 501(c)(3) and we furnish the funds through  
21 them and we do it at no cost to help them. But all the other organizations,  
22 they run their own financials and donations and that sort of stuff and they  
23 keep track of them. There was a breakup of the community foundation  
24 and they had some other organizations that were special units or  
25 something to that order, and they got money and gave to them even  
26 though they were not 501(c)(3)s. So it's been kind of a mixed bag, so you  
27 might understand better where the money is coming from, but most of it is  
28 by each organization doing their own thing, but most of us cooperate with  
29 each other on special occasions. It's like the day before yesterday, just  
30 real quick, PetSmart donated a whole bunch of year-end stuff and Tails of  
31 the Shelter and myself and Broken Promises, we divided that stuff up and  
32 delivered it to Cat's Meow the stuff that's appropriate, so we do provide  
33 that sort of interagency type support. So some of the stuff that we do it's  
34 all donated quantities of stuff rather than dollar bills. Okay? But we do  
35 have a pretty good working system that can address the issues, especially  
36 over in Deming, a lot of people got involved in that issue. Thank you.  
37  
38 Smith: Thank you for the clarification Mr. Bryce. All right. Other questions for  
39 Ms. Gilbert or Mr. Thacker?  
40

#### 41 **E. Best Friends Animal Society**

42  
43 Smith: The Best Friends Animal Society. Mr. Thacker do you want to help us  
44 understand about the great opportunity we're getting there?  
45

1 Thacker: Yes. Thank you. Her presentation is gone though. Is there anybody in  
2 the booth that can look at that? So with me today is a Best Friends  
3 representative by the name of Jessica Vigos. Best Friends is a national  
4 wide, worldwide organization.  
5

6 Smith: Mr. Thacker, if you'll click on the 110 there that might open up a folder  
7 that's useful. It looks like it's trying to open 1217.  
8

9 Thacker: So Best Friends, a little bit of information on Best Friends. Best Friends  
10 Animal Society has been around for a very long time. They're based in  
11 Utah where their home base is in Kanab, Utah. They have a sanctuary  
12 there that assists and has multiple specialized animals that are both, you  
13 know ones that need the extra help and some that are perfectly healthy  
14 and just waiting for adoption. They have declared a no-kill type of call-out.  
15 They're successful in California in passing laws such as you can't buy a  
16 pet from a pet store anymore, it has to be a pet or the pet store has to get  
17 the pet from animal centers or animal shelters for that to happen.  
18

19 Dollahon: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. Albert is working on it. We're  
20 having network issues. He's trying to grab it and move it to the local  
21 computer so I say we give him a couple of minutes.  
22

23 Thacker: All right.

24 Dollahon: We may want to do something else on the agenda and come back to it?  
25  
26

27 Smith: All right. Thank you Mr. Dollahon. And yes we normally have a live  
28 broadcast I believe, and we are not able to do that today, but if people ask  
29 this is available on Facebook, I think Instagram or something or Twitter  
30 and of course will be archived. But Mr. Thacker while we're waiting for  
31 that to come up, maybe we can go ahead and start with our public input.  
32

33 Thacker: Absolutely. Thank you.  
34

35 Smith: All right. Thank you.  
36

## 37 **VI. PUBLIC INPUT** 38

39 Smith: Anyone in the audience who would like to share something in public input  
40 today? Alright, Mr. Bryce.  
41

42 Bryce: Frank Bryce, President Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. I came  
43 ill prepared today because I got your packet late last night and I was busy  
44 and I ran out of ink, so I couldn't printout the stuff I needed. But I am  
45 going to be submitting a list of questions starting this New Year of issues  
46 that we're concerned with at the Shelter and how it relates or reflects or is



1 part of the animal control system. I want to thank Mr. Macias for your  
2 comments. Those are very good and interesting and things we need to be  
3 kind of looking into. Just to give you a quick idea of things that we're  
4 concerned about, we've had a lot of discussion on this; very late-term  
5 spay, the written review perhaps from the Austin Pets Alive, we haven't  
6 heard that there was one. We are still getting reports of diseased animals,  
7 distemper and stuff showing up. And Colorado, I believe it's called  
8 PACFA where you can get a permit to send animals into the state, which  
9 we have been doing. They're very concerned about the diseased animals  
10 coming from other states and they're about to pass a law probably that will  
11 prevent us sending animals up there that are not really certainly healthy.  
12 They do not want us sending animals with ticks and fleas and diseases in  
13 there. So those are some of the issues that we're going to be bringing  
14 back to the Board. I believe that covers it for the moment.

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

24  
25 Smith: Thank you Mr. Bryce. Any other public comment today? Yes ma'am.

26  
27 Baker: My name is Carla Baker. I'm with Cherished K-9 All Breed Rescue  
28 located here in Las Cruces. I have multiple concerns. I have lots to say  
29 so I'm just going to like hit points. We are mainly an off-the-street rescue.  
30 We don't normally pull from the shelter. One thing that I do want to point  
31 out is we've had mommas and pups in our organization since we've  
32 existed which is over five years now. We've never had a point in our life  
33 span of our rescue that we haven't had mommas and pups. There's  
34 something disturbing going on at the shelter that is kind of, we're having to  
35 step it up a notch to try to assist with this barbaric thing that's happening.  
36 What they're doing is they're taking very like late-term, full-term mommas,  
37 spaying them out and leaving the puppies on the table to die. Not  
38 euthanizing the puppies, leaving the puppies on the table to die. That's  
39 barbaric. Any of you guys, your wives, how would you feel if they were  
40 forcefully spayed out and the baby was just left there?

41 I did speak to Clint about this and during the conversation, I've only  
42 had three conversations with him since he has been here in Las Cruces,  
43 and during the conversation he told me four times that he didn't like me.  
44 He told me I'm out of line and he told me that there's no comparison. I  
45 believe he's out of line. This is not okay. So we've stepped it up and  
46 we've been trying to pull all of these mommas out there right as they're

1 being spay and neutered. I was told via a Facebook message from him  
2 on December 7th that, I would be happy to share it if you don't believe  
3 what I'm saying, that he does agree to notify us and let rescues have a  
4 chance to pull them prior to spaying them out. Then on December 18th I  
5 was notified by an employee there, I'm not friends with a single employee  
6 there. There are several employees that know I'm going to be the one that  
7 speaks out, so suddenly I've got all these employees contacting me.  
8 Employees have been threatened with termination if they talk to me.  
9 There's something, there's a cover-up, if they're being told they're going to  
10 be terminated by the Medical Director is the one telling them this, then  
11 there's a problem. Okay, on December 18th I was notified first thing in the  
12 morning there was a dog, a very pregnant dog, going to be spayed out. I  
13 started calling some of the kennel managers, I was calling the shelter, I  
14 was calling, nobody was calling me back. Then I get a message from one  
15 of the managers saying, "Oh they believe that dog has just got a tumor."  
16 Okay, I deal with a lot of pregnant dogs. That would be a very  
17 symmetrical tumor on a dog that was ready to deliver. Long story short,  
18 they spayed her out, full of puppies, kill the puppies, then I get the call  
19 from Clint saying, that's the call I was talking about how much he doesn't  
20 like me and so I could care less if he likes me. I get the call from Clint  
21 saying, "Oh they thought there was a medical problem." "They thought it  
22 was a tumor." Then they said it was a mid-term and then mom was too  
23 old, I heard one excuse after another, after another. Remember back on  
24 December 7th they said if a rescue wants them, they'll give them to the  
25 rescue. We could have dealt with it being a tumor then. We could have  
26 made that decision on whether or not. We would not have spayed out and  
27 left those babies to die. I need to fast-forward because I know I've got a  
28 limited amount of time, but I could go off on that conversation.

29 I do want to make a comment on one of his notes first. Somebody  
30 made a comment and asked him about why the stats on December 2017  
31 had 385 dogs pulled by rescues and December 2018 122 dogs were  
32 pulled back, because we don't trust the shelter anymore. In December of  
33 2017 and he had barely started, we were working with Paul and we were  
34 working with Bernice and we were working with Curtis. He had barely  
35 started. We were all on board, we were working our butts off to get them  
36 out of there and get them out of other rescues and out of the state. It's not  
37 as easy to work with him. He is a PR person. He should run for  
38 President, but as far as working with rescues, no, I don't trust him. I don't  
39 believe him. He tells me one week he'll send pregnant dogs to us and he  
40 kills the babies the next week. Pregnant dogs that are spayed out are  
41 more likely to get sick and die themselves. I have two examples. I've  
42 been rescuing pregnant dogs and their babies for over five years. Oh and  
43 another thing, they are vaccinating the mommas upon intake. I know they  
44 vaccinate every animal upon intake, but if you've got a late pregnant  
45 momma that's ready to deliver you are, ask any vet in this town because

1 believe me, I've been calling them and talking to them, and that is  
2 contraindicated. They should not be doing it.

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

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

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

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

37  
38 Smith: All right Ms. Baker if you could wrap it up for us.

39  
40 Baker: Okay. Okay. Basically, I'm asking if they're going to release, we've got, I  
41 made a network of a whole bunch of different rescues outside of here.  
42 We've sent a whole bunch to Oregon. We're sending some to Colorado.  
43 Two loads this week, we will take them. The problem is we're sending  
44 distempered animals out there. I can't have them spay and neutered. I  
45 have to, I mean excuse me, I can't have them vaccinated. They've got  
46 some that are getting pregnant at the shelter. One dog in particular

1 pregnant at the shelter, she was in plant, she went to the shelter in June,  
2 spayed out in late November, babies were viable. That's not okay. They  
3 should have spayed her out when they took her in and not let her get  
4 pregnant at the shelter.

5  
6 Smith: Thank you Ms. Baker. Mr. Thacker do you have anything you want to say  
7 in response to that at this point or would you like to work on that for our  
8 next meeting?  
9

10 Thacker: Well there's a lot I'd like to say about that. First of all, her and I's  
11 discussion it was comments from her side as well. And the reason why I  
12 told her I did not like her as an individual is because she said people with  
13 a lot of children are a burden to society. I have seven children and she  
14 deliberately pointed that out saying that I was a burden to society. So that  
15 was not right to me. And also I told her that it is not the same when you  
16 are talking about human life and you're talking about animal life. I value  
17 human life higher than I do animal life.  
18

19 Smith: And Mr. Thacker it sounds like this unfortunately devolved into somewhat  
20 of a personal kind of conversation.  
21

22 Thacker: It is a personal attack on her side and also to a point on my side.  
23 However one important thing she did not mention in her discussion here  
24 was that I said I did not like her, however, she does do a lot for our  
25 animals and I will continue to work with her and her rescue. That is  
26 something I was very very clear with and she does do a lot for our animals  
27 and we do very much appreciate that.  
28

29 Smith: Mr. Thacker. If I may, perhaps you can help us with the distemper  
30 question because that has been something that has come up and I think  
31 that's probably at the crux of a lot of what we've heard about today.  
32

33 Thacker: Yes, and I wish Dr. Baiz was here so she could be able to address this as  
34 well because the shot that we give them, the vaccine is a modified live  
35 virus. It is impossible for that virus or that injection to give an animal  
36 distemper. It gives them the antibodies to fight distemper. Also distemper  
37 shows itself 10 to 14 days after they get it. The only way those dogs that  
38 she's referring to were able to get distemper was if they came in with it  
39 and the animals were dying from it. Dr. Baiz does not do anything off the  
40 fly. She is professional. She does her research. And we did come to the  
41 conclusion through UC-Davis, which is a very, very well known  
42 veterinarian college, that the risk of having an animal abort puppies  
43 because of a vaccine far less exceeds the possibility of the animal getting  
44 the disease. So that is why we vaccinate everything upon intake,  
45 everything.  
46

1 Smith: All right. Thank you Mr. Thacker. I think that as we have the ongoing  
2 attempts to address the distemper question, especially as we have new  
3 members of the Board here, that that effort is something that it would be  
4 helpful if maybe Dr. Baiz could help us the next time as far as what's being  
5 done and what we can expect as far as distemper issues both with  
6 pregnant mothers and their newly born or aborted puppies.  
7

8 Thacker: I can also address that. Mr. Bryce mentioned how much he loves Best  
9 Friends. Guess what Best Friends recommends, vaccinating out of  
10 female dogs when they come in to get spayed. Action Program for  
11 Animals recommends vaccinating out females when they come in to get  
12 spayed. Every single one of our shelter vets recommends vaccinating out  
13 females upon, if they're pregnant, when they come in for spay. It is a  
14 general practice.  
15

16 Smith: All right, thank you. Any additional questions from Members of the Board?  
17 Thank you Mr. Thacker. Any other public input? Yes sir.  
18

19 Tapia: Hello, my name is Marcus Tapia.  
20

21 Smith: Mister, I'm sorry we'll need to speak directly into the mic.  
22

23 Tapia: My name is Marcus Tapia.  
24

25 Smith: Thank you.  
26

27 Tapia: Yes sir. So I would like to say Mr. Thacker also said that no puppy should  
28 ever be born. And I would also like to tell Mr. Thacker "a life is a life".  
29 Okay, I know exactly what you went through Board Member Macias. I  
30 know exactly what you went through. Bottle feeding puppies every three  
31 hours, staying up every night, doing everything you can, loving them,  
32 holding them. I know exactly what you went through. I am a foster for  
33 local rescues. I know what it is to see tiny puppies twitch from distemper.  
34 Local vets are saying pregnant dogs should not be vaccinated. Unborn  
35 puppies can be and are being affected. Over the past week I held a litter  
36 of tiny puppies all less than a pound, as they died, one by one. I held their  
37 mom as she took her last breath. She was vaccinated four days before  
38 the puppies were born. I urge the shelter to stop vaccinating late-term  
39 pregnant dogs. Puppies and mom dogs are dying. Thank you.  
40

41 Smith: Thank you Mr. Tapia. I think this will probably be an area that we could  
42 use some more clarification. Yes Mr. Tapia.  
43

44 Tapia: Sorry, excuse me. It's Mr. Tapia. Did you get that?  
45

46 Smith: I didn't hear it clearly.

1  
2 Tapia: Okay that's why I'm just.  
3  
4 Smith: Tapia?  
5  
6 Tapia: Tapia, T-A-P-I-A, just for the record.  
7  
8 Smith: Okay, thank you.  
9  
10 Tapia: Thank you.  
11  
12 Smith: All right any other public input today? Yes Ms. Gilbert.  
13  
14 Gilbert: I would just like to say that I myself am very concerned about the spaying  
15 out of dogs that are full-term and if that is recommended by or the practice  
16 of shelters across the U.S. and Best Friends themselves, I'm curious if  
17 there is a time frame that they look at because if they feel that spaying out  
18 full-term is acceptable. And the other comment I would like to make is that  
19 it's obvious as a community that we've got to do something about people  
20 surrendering their dogs when they're pregnant. What can we do? What  
21 can we do to up the bar or increase our spay and neuter? And what can  
22 we do to educate people so if they have a dog who is pregnant, a cat, can  
23 they hold on to them? Can they keep them? Can we help them as a  
24 community to find those animals homes where they'll be spayed and  
25 neutered? To me it just seems like it is really an issue. Thank you.  
26  
27 Smith: Thank you Ms. Gilbert. Yes sir.  
28  
29 Comeau: Good morning. My name is Ron Comeau. I am with Lucy's Dream  
30 Rescue. I am with High Desert Doberman Rescue. And I represent  
31 rescues across the country. I want to do a quick discussion about a  
32 German shepherd that I was trying to pull. They knew I was going to pull  
33 it. My wife's uncle passed away. I contacted Curtis to let him know that I  
34 couldn't get there on Friday to pick the dog up because I had things to do.  
35 They killed the dog on Friday. Now my question is, is behavioral issue  
36 dogs where I deal with behavioral issue dogs, I've dealt with behavioral  
37 issue dogs at El Paso Animal Services, I've pulled behavioral issue dogs  
38 from El Paso. What kind of guidelines do they use to decide what's a  
39 behavioral issue problem and what isn't? Who in the facility is certified or  
40 has had training to decide what dog is and what dog isn't a behavioral  
41 issue? I'd really like to have that question answered at the next meeting.  
42 I'd really like to know how they justify the fact that they killed a dog I was  
43 trying to pick up. I have the text messages by the way if anybody would  
44 like to see them.  
45 The second thing is, this stuff we've killing mommas or babies, you  
46 know guys, go to the shelter. Watch them when they spay out at full-term.

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

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

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

38  
39 Smith: Can I ask you a question?

40  
41 Comeau: Yes you can sir.

42  
43 Smith: Thank you. I'm not familiar with Shepherds Without Borders. I don't  
44 recall.

45  
46 Comeau: Shepherds Beyond Borders.

1  
2 Smith: Beyond Border, I'm sorry. And I wrote it down correctly. But and I don't  
3 recall them being included in our discussions about Zero and Seven. Is  
4 that some or is your group here? Has it been here a while or has it been  
5 recently arrived? You'll have to speak directly into the microphone.  
6  
7 Comeau: Shepherds Beyond Borders along with several other rescues nationwide  
8 contact me when they need dogs or they have openings. They operate off  
9 my Facebook page because I post the dogs and then they contact me and  
10 say, "I'll take the dog." At that point we pull the dog, we get the dogs fully  
11 vetted and then we either, she actually drives down here with a van and  
12 she'll pickup 12 to 15 dogs and take them back to Maine.  
13 We also deal with Alone to Home Transport Group and Doobert  
14 Transport Group. These groups transport dogs nationwide for free. I just  
15 transported four shepherds on Friday to Maine. I've got three more going  
16 to Maine on the 16th. I've got three going to Florida on the 19th. And we  
17 have scheduled transports for the rest of the next two months getting dogs  
18 out of this area. I picked up a dog in Alamogordo yesterday, that's one of  
19 the dogs that's going to Maine on the 16th.  
20 We have dogs in foster, we have dogs in boarding, I have 14 dogs  
21 at my house and we deal with all these people, all these places. It's an  
22 amazing thing because we have, like in your video about Last Litter  
23 Program, which never should have been closed, one of their working dogs  
24 rescue in Scottsdale is one of the ones that we deal with. They take dogs  
25 and they train them to be service dogs and they give them to the military  
26 personnel that need them. You guys are missing the boat.  
27  
28 Smith: And thank you for all of that effort. I guess I'm just, I'm feeling remiss in  
29 not knowing about what you were doing previously. And so were you  
30 contacted by Ms. Barker when you said somebody contacts you or Ms.  
31  
32 Comeau: Yes, Kelly Barker and I have been in contact through rescue for a couple  
33 of years at least, maybe longer. Basically what happens and again  
34 through networking, through Facebook, if you look at our Facebook pages,  
35 Carla's, mine, you know, we've got rescues like I said all over the country.  
36 Basically what happened was that she told me what was going on and  
37 when she had dogs that needed to go to rescue she'd contact me, I'd  
38 network them and we'd get them to rescues. You know it's the same thing  
39 with Carla when she talked to us about the mom and puppies. You know  
40 the first one, I contacted Shepherds Beyond Borders at that point she had  
41 all her information so she was able to contact her the second time straight.  
42  
43 Smith: So you're located here now?  
44  
45 Comeau: I'm in El Paso, Texas.  
46



1 Smith: Here in El Paso.  
2  
3 Comeau: Yes.  
4  
5 Smith: And you've been doing this from El Paso for a while now.  
6  
7 Comeau: Yes Sir.  
8  
9 Smith: All right. I appreciate that because I think it's helpful for us to know how  
10 some of these different pieces fit together.  
11  
12 Comeau: Exactly. Thank you. It is. And take into consideration my Explorer is 15  
13 months old, I put 54,000 miles on it in 15 months transporting dogs away  
14 from here.  
15  
16 Smith: Okay. Well as you I'm sure understand from the situation here in Las  
17 Cruces which we have been dealing with for quite a while, we are trying to  
18 zero in on best practices for how we can accomplish both the education  
19 piece and the transportation piece and the appropriate when we have an  
20 excess at the shelter how we deal with those things. So thank you for  
21 bringing your concerns to our attention and certainly I know Mr. Thacker  
22 will be back with some appropriate responses regarding what information  
23 they have at the shelter, what they're basing their decisions on and that  
24 will help us at our next meeting understand the breadth of what we're  
25 talking about, but thank you.  
26  
27 Comeau: Well, and just let me say one thing and I'll walk away. When you guys had  
28 the meetings and we discussed who was going to be your Director, I  
29 talked personally with him, I felt really good about him, he kept telling me  
30 how he wanted to support rescues and that was one of the major things to  
31 do and I got to be honest with you at this point I would not vote for him  
32 again ever. Thank you.  
33  
34 Smith: Well thank you. I think probably you will discover that sometimes people  
35 are still the same person you spoke to before, maybe the circumstances  
36 with the distemper situation or something like that may have put stress on  
37 this situation, but I look forward to there being more information to help us  
38 look at this and make the best decisions as far as how we're moving  
39 forward. Thank you. Any other comments from the public?  
40  
41 Ellins: Mr. Chair.  
42  
43 Smith: Yes, Ms. Ward. Yes Board Member Ellins.  
44  
45 Ellins: I had another quick question for the gentleman.  
46

1 Smith: All right. If you don't mind coming back Mr. Comeau. And Ms. Ward we'll  
2 get to you in just a moment, excuse me, Officer Ward.  
3

4 Comeau: Sorry, I didn't mean to run-off.  
5

6 Ellins: As you know I've been on the Safe Haven Animal Sanctuary for seven  
7 years on the Board. And I'm always curious as to why are there shortage  
8 in other states that requires us to ship so many dogs, as you do, because I  
9 have to believe other states have the same kinds of problems.  
10

11 Comeau: No they don't.  
12

13 Ellins: Why not?  
14

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

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

30 Around here, we just don't care about our pets. People are they  
31 don't spay them, they don't neuter them, they don't microchip them, they  
32 don't give them shots and that creates a big issue. But that being said, if  
33 our shelter is not working properly with the rescues that they know can  
34 move these pets and future family members, then we're going to continue  
35 to have the over-population, we're going to continue to have to put dogs  
36 down. And the bottom line is, if we don't work with these other states that  
37 can move these dogs and that require these dogs to meet the need of the  
38 people that are going to take care of these dogs, which is a major deal,  
39 which is one of the reasons why I deal with specific rescues across the  
40 country, because when those dogs go I know those dogs are going to go  
41 through a home check, they're going to do a vet check, they're going to do  
42 a house check. When that dog goes to a home we know it's a good home.  
43 If it's not a good home, it doesn't go because we have waiting lists in these  
44 rescues that I deal with for future family members to go to.  
45

46 Smith: Thank you Mr. Comeau.

1  
2 Ellins: You seemed to suggest earlier that it's a State Law problem. States other  
3 than New Mexico have better legislation on the books?  
4  
5 Comeau: Yes sir, they do. And they actually work the laws. People are required  
6 and they are charged if they don't follow the guidelines or the laws. It's  
7 not, you guys and El Paso have got the same problem. Yes, we have got  
8 rules on the books or laws on the books. Do they get enforced? Not  
9 really. We now have the Animal Abuse Division with the City. A fantastic  
10 group of people, 463 charges last year, because I was at the meeting last  
11 night. They're doing a wonderful job. Las Cruces needs that, they really  
12 do. But we have to make the lives of the pets better. It's our job to take  
13 care of them. They can't take care of themselves.  
14  
15 Ellins: Thank you.  
16  
17 Comeau: And by the way, thank you for Safe Haven. I do work with them quite a  
18 bit. I actually worked on a behavioral problem dog that they had there.  
19  
20 Smith: Thank you Mr. Comeau. I believe Board Member Gonzalez has a  
21 question.  
22  
23 Comeau: Yes Sir.  
24  
25 Gonzalez: How's your relationship with the animal shelter in El Paso?  
26  
27 Comeau: Sir I can show you text messages from everybody from the second in  
28 command to volunteers, giving me information on pets so that I can find  
29 them homes. I get phone calls. I get text messages. I go in there just  
30 when I have time and I'm in town, I go in there, we videotape dogs, we  
31 take pictures of dogs and we network the dogs.  
32  
33 Gonzalez: And how well do you get along with the Director of that animal shelter in El  
34 Paso?  
35  
36 Comeau: Which one?  
37  
38 Gonzalez: The animal shelter in El Paso.  
39  
40 Comeau: I know, but which Director. Paula Paulson I have her cell number and we  
41 deal together all the time.  
42  
43 Gonzalez: I was wondering how that works. I've seen her on TV.  
44  
45 Comeau: Yes.  
46

1 Gonzalez: And I was just wondering how that relationship is.  
2  
3 Comeau: Paula and I have an agreement. We have meetings once a month, which  
4 we haven't had because of the holidays, where we come in and we  
5 discuss what's going on and if there's any concerns or any things that are  
6 coming up, which we discussed that last night. Obviously, nobody's  
7 perfect. We all have issues. Now that again being said, where I deal with  
8 rescue, transport, foster I'm involved in so many different phases of this  
9 deal. I get to see a lot more of what's going on and what's happening and  
10 that's why we have these meetings and conversations to discuss better  
11 ways to get things done, which is something that needs to happen here.  
12 We have meetings, actually Paula and I have meetings personally and  
13 they also have meetings with the rescues where they bring all the rescues  
14 in and we sit down and we discuss what's going on, what we can do to  
15 improve it, what kind of issues that we ran into, so that we can correct the  
16 problems and move on and get more family members out of the shelter.  
17 It's you know.  
18  
19 Gonzalez: Mind boggling. Well I hope that they do something about that.  
20  
21 Comeau: It needs to happen. It needs to happen. The shelter needs to have  
22 meetings with the rescues, they need to discuss what's going on, you guys  
23 need to look at why all of the sudden you've got half the dogs being pulled  
24 by rescues you did last year. That's got to tell you something. You've got  
25 to look at the numbers.  
26  
27 Smith: Thank you Mr. Comeau. Board Member Gonzalez, thank you. Mr.  
28 Thacker.  
29  
30 Thacker: We do have monthly meetings. It's called the Coalition. Myself and Jean  
31 are the only ones that attend that in most cases. Occasionally we'll have  
32 SNAP there. The opportunity for the rescues to speak is there. I have not  
33 set up any walls to any rescues. Another one is, is that who sterilizes  
34 these dogs that the rescues are taking? We do.  
35  
36 Smith: All right, Mr. Thacker. Let me suggest that we comprehensively discuss  
37 the issues that were brought up today, because at this particular moment,  
38 we're starting to sound like we're getting into a back and forth kind of  
39 thing.  
40  
41 Thacker: Exactly what it is.  
42  
43 Smith: And I would like for us to comprehensively address the concerns that were  
44 brought up at our next meeting. I believe Officer Ward wanted to share  
45 something with us, thank you. And Mr. Comeau I think we're going to  
46 leave it there for today, but I appreciate your input, thank you. Ms. Ward.

1  
2 Ward: Thank you. I just wanted to say, what I have to say is a comment. As  
3 someone who has worked in this field for an awful long time, I want to say  
4 thank you to all the animal groups, all the animal activists, all the shelter  
5 employees, all the Animal Control Officers, everyone in this community  
6 that has put in so much hard work and effort for the care and welfare of  
7 the animals of Doña Ana County. It has shown just this past year. I have  
8 seen a tremendous amount of effort and positive changes just in this last  
9 year. Going in from all of these communities, these different entities  
10 working together, as a team for a common goal and that's for the animals.  
11 And it has been great for me to sit back and be a part of this and witness  
12 these positive changes. Let's not forget where the shelter was over a year  
13 ago and the huge enormous problem we had with the number of animals  
14 in that facility. Clint's got a tough job, a really tough job and I feel,  
15 because it's really hard, but we have seen a positive change in a lot of  
16 communication and hard work going back and forth with all these  
17 agencies and these entities that have been involved. So I just wanted to  
18 bring that before and say thank you to everyone. Thank you.

19  
20 Smith: Thank you Officer Ward. All right. Then if there are no new comments  
21 from the public we will go to Board Comments.

22

### 23 **BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY**

24

25 Smith: We will go to Board comments.

26

27 Macias: Mr. Chairman.

28

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

32

33 Thacker: Meetings for with Best Friends?

34

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

36

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

38

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

41

42 Thacker: Covered.

43

44 Smith: Okay, thank you did you have something else Board Member Eakman that  
45 you were referring to? No. Okay thank you.

46

1 Thacker: She may touch base on their visit that they came and did in December, so  
2 she may touch base on that, but this is her presentation so.  
3

4 Smith: Okay, thank you.  
5

6 Ellins: Mr. Chairman. I thought we were trying to bring up Best Friends Animal  
7 Society.  
8

9 Smith: Okay, that's where I lost track of where we were. Thank you. So she's  
10 coming forward to speak now. Thank you.  
11

12 Ellins: All right.  
13

14 Vigos: Hello everyone. I am Jessica Vigos, I ...  
15

16 Smith: Ms. Vigos you're going to have to speak directly into that microphone.  
17

18 Vigos: Okay. So my name is Jessica Vigos. I've worked for Best Friends for the  
19 last five years. I was here and conducted part of a shelter assessment for  
20 your shelter. And I've been heavily involved in the community cat issue or  
21 community cat stance. So, there were so many things said that I would so  
22 much like to respond on, but the one thing that I will say is you have a  
23 serious pet over-population and that is not a shelter issue. That is a  
24 community issue. In order to solve that issue it is going to take your  
25 shelters, your rescues, and everyone in the community working together.  
26 So I wanted to give you a brief presentation on community cats and  
27 then I'll tell you about some really positive things that happened yesterday  
28 and also touch on the shelter assessment. So I'm not sure how much  
29 information you have about what trap, neuter, return is, but cats that come  
30 into your shelter, healthy cats, would be referred to as shelter, neuter,  
31 return. Those animals who qualify through some guidelines are fixed and  
32 returned to the community where they came from. Often times those cats  
33 have people caring for them. They have a home. They have somewhere  
34 to go back to. Filling up space in an over-populated shelter doesn't make  
35 sense to hold cats that can be vaccinated and returned to the community.  
36 So the benefits are this reduces shelter admissions, operating costs, it  
37 creates safer communities by reducing the number of unvaccinated cats, it  
38 improves the health and quality of lives for free roaming cats, it reduces  
39 behaviors that lead to nuisance complaints, such as yowling, mating,  
40 spraying and what I like to call littering, having kittens all over the  
41 community. And TNR actually has been the only thing that's been proven  
42 to reduce the size of colonies over time.  
43 Who is eligible for TNR and SNR? Any free roaming outdoor cat  
44 without identification. So a cat comes in, it's not microchipped, it has no  
45 collar, it's healthy, that cat would be a qualifying candidate. The cat does  
46 have to be healthy, be able to be surviving well out there and/or have

1 easily treatable conditions such as UTIs, ear mites, worms, parasites,  
2 something that can be treated, and of course meet the body score  
3 recommendation that it is doing good. I touched on that.

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

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

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

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

42 Yesterday, I did seven returns with one of the shelter techs and it  
43 was incredible. Every single person that we talked to was completely  
44 supportive. That was a business owner, residents in the neighborhoods, it  
45 varied from County and City locations. A lovely Spanish-speaking woman  
46 who luckily had somebody there that I was able to communicate with that

1 has been caring for these cats that was so happy that there was an option  
2 to fix the other ones in her rural area. So talking to people is a huge part  
3 of that and that's what we call canvassing. So being able to have the  
4 shelter staff that's returning these cats have printed documentation saying  
5 what the ear tip is. Why we're doing this. Why we're putting the cats  
6 back. Those key pieces are how you educate the community to start  
7 being like, "Hey, there's a free roaming cat that does not have an ear tip.  
8 Let's get it fixed." And so you need to have those items available and  
9 everybody in the system needs to be informed of that. That means animal  
10 control needs to be giving that same information. The shelter needs to be  
11 giving the same information. It's helpful for you guys to be able to give the  
12 same information. If somebody calls the City Health Department, the  
13 County Commissioner, for them all to be on the same page of what is  
14 happening and the reasons that we're doing it.

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

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

36  
37 Smith: You're going to need back at the microphone.

38  
39 Vigos: When we did the shelter assessment, there are a couple of areas that talk  
40 about the presentations that Scott Giacoppo did for the Animal Control  
41 both City and County. I'm sure you read that assessment. It was not the  
42 easiest presentation, but the one thing that is desperately needed in this  
43 community is the Animal Control Officers to be giving this information to  
44 people. Animal Control's job is to help educate the community and  
45 provide animal control for that animal control services and their willingness  
46 to participate greatly impacts the over-population problem in this



1 community. Them being able to give information about deterrents, about  
2 what an ear tip is, about how to properly care for cats for someone that's  
3 doing it, those are all extremely important pieces to the puzzle.

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

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

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

45  
46 Smith: Any questions for Ms. Vigos?

1  
2 Vigos: Vigos.  
3  
4 Smith: Vigos. I wrote it down, but I didn't remember how to pronounce it.  
5  
6 Vigos: It's okay.  
7  
8 Smith: All right, Board Member Gonzalez and then Board Member Ellins.  
9  
10 Gonzalez: Do you host meetings on educating the community? When and where  
11 and how often?  
12  
13 Vigos: We have a lot of available online resources. We also do have some  
14 documents that I would love to share with you gentlemen that would be  
15 *(inaudible)*.  
16  
17 Baum: Excuse me. We really need you on the mic if you're going to talk because  
18 otherwise we can't record you.  
19  
20 Smith: That's right if you could give it to the clerk then she can hand it to the rest  
21 of us thank you.  
22  
23 Vigos: So the one page flyer would contain the logo for the shelter at the bottom  
24 and then the contact information for the shelter. So that's a flyer that could  
25 be hung in multiple places. And then the two-pages that I handed out  
26 would actually be printed as a door hanger. One side is Spanish  
27 speaking, one side is English, and that gives basic information about the  
28 cats being returned. And that is a huge piece in the public education, is  
29 making sure that those door hangers are put on multiple houses in every  
30 direction when you return a cat.  
31 As far as the shelter assessment goes it is eight pages long. So,  
32 some very important things that were identified as huge barriers right now  
33 is the intake, the sheer number of intakes for both cats and dogs. You  
34 actually have one of the highest populations of dog intakes that I've ever  
35 seen, which it's usually opposite in the places that I've been anyway. So  
36 an extremely high number, the return to owner rate is very very low. That  
37 is a huge indicator also of the desperate need for community education  
38 and public involvement. There's no rural county spay or neuter options.  
39 One of you asked the gentleman from the canines, the German Shepherd  
40 Rescue, what the difference was in Maine and the states that these dogs  
41 are going to. The main difference in those states is aggressive spay and  
42 neuter programs. Aggressive, low-income, spay and neuter programs, the  
43 access to those resources. So that is the big difference in those states is  
44 that they've been implementing those programs for a number of years.  
45 The County perception of ordinances, right now bringing back in  
46 cats that have already been ear tipped, that's a huge barrier right now.

1 Lack of public awareness, education and cultural barriers, so I'm going to  
2 just point out some of the recommendations so the biggest one is that  
3 Best Friends would like to do a pilot program for the City and County and  
4 usually those pilot programs are three to five years. We obviously provide  
5 a lot of resources for those things, but my supervisor of course let me  
6 know that we would want a letter of commitment from the City and County  
7 for that pilot program. I think it could make a huge impact on your  
8 community. If you look up anywhere online these days you will see state  
9 after state, city after city posting articles about the huge impact that a  
10 trap/neuter/return program makes. Six months, a year takes a shelter with  
11 a 20% live release rate to about an 80 to 90% live release rate. So it  
12 makes a huge impact. It provides more resources for those animals that  
13 are sickly, the medical cases, the pregnant animals and things like that.  
14 And the last thing is that I did want to read the position statement on  
15 pregnant spays from Best Friends.

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

35  
36 Smith: Thank you Ms. Vigos. Questions? Yes Board Member Ellins.

37  
38 Ellins: Part of your assessment involved the describing the less than enthusiastic  
39 attitude of Animal Control Officers with trap, neuter, spay and release.  
40 Could you talk about that?

41  
42 Vigos: Yes, so during the assessment there were four people that contributed to  
43 this assessment. I was in the afternoon training. I'm going to just read  
44 that section if that's okay with you.

45 So Scott Giacoppo conducted a series of workshops for officers  
46 employed by the City and County and have grave concerns over Best

1 Friends funding a program in this locality until legislative changes are  
2 made and a firm commitment from Animal Control leadership is made.  
3 The overwhelming majority of field officers, most importantly those in  
4 leadership positions, were admittedly opposed to the concept of TNR.  
5 Comments were made about strictly enforcing current laws to subvert the  
6 efforts such as issuing citations for caregivers for harboring. Comments  
7 were also made about bringing cats out into the desert and letting them  
8 go, and that was by the officers. Providing the shelter with inaccurate  
9 pickup locations or no information at all. Comments such as, "I would  
10 rather see them euthanized than put back", were made. And in regard to  
11 the program reducing shelter intake therefore reducing shelter deaths, an  
12 officer in leadership position stated that, "Deaths occur in the shelter are  
13 not their problem, it is the shelter's problem", epitomized the disconnect  
14 between shelter and field operations.

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

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

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

39  
40 Ellins: Mr. Chairman. Could we have the Doña Ana County Animal Control  
41 people comment on this?

42  
43 Smith: Yes, Board Member Ellins. Officer Ward would you like to make a  
44 response to that?  
45

1 Ward: Yes. In regards to this, I wasn't in the second session, so I don't know  
2 what was said. I did pop-in briefly just to pick-up some papers and drop  
3 some papers off and then be gone. I was in the morning session. I know  
4 the morning session, our department had animal control officers asking  
5 questions as to what we would do. Some of the discussion during this  
6 process was to for us to release the animals once somebody calls in a  
7 complaint to us to go out and just release that animal back out. Under the  
8 State statutes there's abandonment and we can't go in and do certain  
9 abandonment stuff. We discussed things like that. Like going against  
10 what the laws are, what State statutes are, what our local ordinances are,  
11 and simply we did discuss about possibly having some of the laws  
12 changed. Maybe someone going to Santa Fe to the legislator sessions  
13 and looking at getting some of these laws changed as to changing the  
14 description of what abandonment is or what these other laws are in regard  
15 to TNR community cats. Like I said, I wasn't in the afternoon session so  
16 I'm not sure what she's talking about there. I wasn't there. During my  
17 session as well, there was myself and the City Leadership. City  
18 Leadership wasn't in the afternoon as well. I do have Officer Bryan Hulse  
19 here. I'm not sure what session he was in.  
20

21 Smith: Thank you Officer Ward. Officer Hulse.

22  
23 Hulse: I was in the morning session as well. There is a lot that I can say about  
24 this. As of this time I would like to refuse due to me being in this position  
25 with the County. I do have several backgrounds, Bachelor Degrees in  
26 Wildlife Management and other things that came upon this. I myself  
27 personally am not refuting a program like this. We need something done.  
28 However the way it was presented and the deflections of answers that we  
29 were trying to get made it just more of a political statement to us and not  
30 really a true program for us to work with. Like I said we do need  
31 something to be done. I agree. We need to have educational, but the  
32 way it was presented and the way it was trying to be fed to us was not the  
33 way to go around this.  
34

35 Smith: All right, thank you. Well I think probably we come back to legislative  
36 questions and policy questions that are going to be critical so that our  
37 ACOs and the people trying to help us can address that appropriately.  
38 Board Member Macias, did you have a question or comment you wanted  
39 to make about that?  
40

41 Macias: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment and a couple of  
42 observations. And I apologize I just have to be at another meeting and so  
43 I didn't anticipate the meeting going this long.

44 Perhaps 11 years as a trial court Judge really trains you not to react  
45 initially to anything, because you have to hear the whole picture. You  
46 have to be given the whole picture. What I've seen today is a level of

1 mutual animosity that is completely unacceptable. And we are bombarded  
2 with all of this information yet it's almost a trial environment where people  
3 are getting up and basically testifying one way, getting up saying things,  
4 overreacting to what's being said. And I know that this is an animal and  
5 this is really the document that I read because this is what was given to  
6 me in preparation of this meeting, the Animal Services Center of the  
7 Mesilla Valley assessment. I have to believe that there is a more  
8 organized way to look to see what the challenges are. And I'm not saying  
9 that there aren't some good observations in this document, but that comes  
10 from a neutral body that takes into consideration and talks to all of the  
11 advocate groups, talks to the shelter administration, talks to the City and  
12 County bureaucracy that is connected with this effort. I have to believe  
13 because our contribution, both the City and the County's contribution to  
14 the Animal Shelter went up substantially this year, that there have to be  
15 resources to come in and do what would be a neutral, impartial  
16 assessment of all of these issues. Because I can't understand how that's  
17 going to work just in front of this Board. We're asking people to come  
18 back with more information at the next meeting. I think it has to be  
19 something, a good audit, a good review of the practices and the policies, a  
20 review of legislative changes that would enhance it, an assessment of  
21 what additional initiatives, both the County and the City can engage in in  
22 terms of addressing the population. I am concerned about the piecemeal  
23 approach that I'm even just seeing in this first meeting. And really the  
24 divisions of being able to bring people together on a mutual set of goals  
25 that will address the concerns that have been voiced here today. I just  
26 have to believe that there's a better approach to it, a more organized  
27 approach to it rather than hoping that the group of us can somehow sit up  
28 here and arbitrate that without a far more intensive review of the issues.  
29 Mr. Chairman I just want to encourage it as a future item on the agenda to  
30 discuss in terms of whether we approach it in a different way rather than  
31 what appears to be a little bit of a piecemeal approach to it.

32  
33 Smith: Thank you Board Member Macias. And I should point out that this is  
34 something of an extraordinary meeting. We have not had this level of  
35 contention or division expressed in a long time at our meetings. So I was  
36 not quite prepared for it to run this long or to be this contentious either.  
37 What I would like to say is that probably what is warranted and I believe  
38 we're working on having a work session, and I think a work session  
39 regarding the issues that have been brought up today and how we find an  
40 appropriate way to assess them and work on that piece is probably going  
41 to be helpful moving forward, but I absolutely appreciate your comments  
42 Board Member Macias.

43  
44 Macias: Mr. Chairman. Just a slight response. I understand that work sessions  
45 can be of some value, but normally their valuable to educate individuals  
46 that aren't educated about the issues. My sense is still let's bring in

1 someone at a professional level before we have a work session to come in  
2 and do some work and perhaps even do some mediation and so that the  
3 work session can have a product that has been given input by all of the  
4 different interest groups so then there would appear to me to be some  
5 value to go over the findings from that more comprehensive assessment.  
6  
7 Smith: Then I would suggest that probably what we're going to need to do is have  
8 a resolution before us to then contract with a consultant who would then  
9 bring all those things to us, which would take some time, but that may be  
10 as the approach. So let's have that as an item on which we can, we'll put  
11 that on the agenda for our next meeting.  
12  
13 Vigos: May I make one comment?  
14  
15 Smith: If you would wait one moment please. Board Member Eakman had a  
16 comment he wanted to make, and then I'll get to you Ms.  
17  
18 Vigos: Okay thank you.  
19  
20 Smith: Vigos.  
21  
22 Eakman: I also heard frustration in the room today and I'm starting my fourth year  
23 on this Board. And a couple of observations if I could give them to my  
24 fellow Board Members. I believe if you look at the mission statement of  
25 the Shelter and the current expectations of the Shelter, they are far  
26 removed from each other. And I believe we have put so much  
27 responsibility on the Shelter to do municipal and county duties that it is  
28 very difficult to please everyone or to make some standards happen  
29 number one. Number two I travel to many places around the globe. I  
30 travel Mexico quite a bit, Native American Nations throughout the country,  
31 no one has this over-population problem like we do here. And it's not  
32 solved by spay and neuter clinics, and it's not solved by any of that, it is  
33 solved by community norms and personal responsibilities. And it seems  
34 that we have some giant things to accomplish here in the City and the  
35 County which we have yet to address. And so I would also say that that  
36 should be an item coming up in a resolution. We need some outside help  
37 because we're not seeing the answers ourselves. Thank you.  
38  
39 Smith: Thank you Board Member Eakman. And now Ms. Vigos, thank you for  
40 your patience.  
41  
42 Vigos: No problem. Thank you. So I do want to comment that Best Friends is  
43 able to help with some of those assessments. Our attorneys can also  
44 work with County and City attorneys to come up with better legislation and  
45 it just so happens that Mr. Eakman had been.  
46

1 Smith: Excuse me. We're going to go out of session as soon as Mr. Eakman  
2 leaves because.  
3  
4 Eakman: I apologize.  
5  
6 Smith: No that's quite all right, I just want to point out that we will not longer have  
7 a quorum so we will be having a discussion absent of quorum at this point  
8 so our official meeting has ended, but please go ahead and conclude your  
9 comments.  
10  
11 NO QUORUM AFTER THIS MOMENT.  
12  
13 Vigos: The assessment actually contained a lot of really positive information as  
14 well. Your Shelter and Director are working very very hard to make  
15 changes. They have done some extremely positive things to work  
16 towards making huge change in your community. It just so happens the  
17 part on the classes that were held was probably the most negative part of  
18 the assessment. I do encourage you to make changes, however I will say  
19 that your over-population issue at the Shelter needs some solutions right  
20 now. Waiting several months and taking that time will only further damage  
21 relationships between shelters, rescues and mostly impact the animals.  
22 So thank you very much for your time.  
23  
24 Smith: Thank you Ms. Vigos. At this point let me check with Ms. Baum, we have  
25 on our agenda comments from the public and comments from the Board  
26 members. Is that something that we can still continue to do even though  
27 we don't have a quorum or is it best at this point to simply close the  
28 meeting?  
29  
30 Baum: Well you already did your public comment.  
31  
32 Smith: I sort of unintentionally did that yes.  
33  
34 Baum: Yes.  
35  
36 Smith: Okay, but then at this.  
37  
38 Baum: So it's Board Members Comments, I think it's entirely up to the  
39 Chairperson.  
40  
41 Smith: Thank you very much Ms. Baum. Board Member Ellins.  
42  
43 Ellins: Did we pay Best Friends to do this assessment?  
44  
45 Smith: So you're shaking your head, just for the record, we did not pay them.  
46



1 Ellins: Okay.  
2  
3 Smith: Thank you Board Member Ellins. All right with the three of us left then,  
4 any comments from the Board Members? No? Well we're already  
5 adjourned. Thank you all for joining us today. And thank you all for the  
6 input from the public and from officials in our various capacities.  
7

8 **VII. CHAIR AND BOARD COMMENTS**

9  
10 **VII. Adjournment (11:50 AM)**

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13 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Kasandra Gandara, Chairman

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Jack Eakman, Board Member

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Lynn Ellins, Board Member

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Ramon S. Gonzalez, Board Member

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Fernando R. Macias, Board Member

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Gregory Z. Smith, Board Member

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37 **ATTEST:**

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40  
41 \_\_\_\_\_  
42 Amanda Lopez Askin, County Clerk

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley Board of Supervisors  
**From:** Maria Villa, Accounting Manager **Initials:** *YV*  
**Date:** February 11, 2019 **File #:**  
**F-19-043**


**Subject:** Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley Unaudited Financial Reports for January 31, 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

**Initials:** 

CC: Amador Espinosa, Financial Reporting Analyst

**Initials:** 

**Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley  
Statement of Net Position  
January 31, 2019 (Unaudited)**

	<u>Fund 7440 General Fund</u>	<u>Fund 7441 Capital Projects</u>	<u>Fund 9440 Capital Assets</u>	<u>Statement of Net Position</u>
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Cash & investments	\$ 420,346	\$ 610,756	\$ -	\$ 1,031,102
Accounts receivable	88,776	-	-	88,776
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>509,122</u>	<u>610,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,119,878</u>
<b>Capital Assets</b>				
Equipment, net of accum depr	-	-	244,031	244,031
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>244,031</u>	<u>244,031</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 509,122</u>	<u>\$ 610,756</u>	<u>\$ 244,031</u>	<u>\$ 1,363,909</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accrued Wages Payable	-	-	-	-
Accrued payroll liabilities	52,882	-	-	52,882
Revenue Collected in Advance	-	77,000	-	77,000
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>52,882</u>	<u>77,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>129,882</u>
<b>Fund Balance</b>				
Required reserve	250,509	-	-	250,509
Restricted	-	50,000	-	50,000
Unassigned	205,731	483,756	244,031	933,518
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<u>456,240</u>	<u>533,756</u>	<u>244,031</u>	<u>1,234,027</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<u>\$ 509,122</u>	<u>\$ 610,756</u>	<u>\$ 244,031</u>	<u>\$ 1,363,909</u>

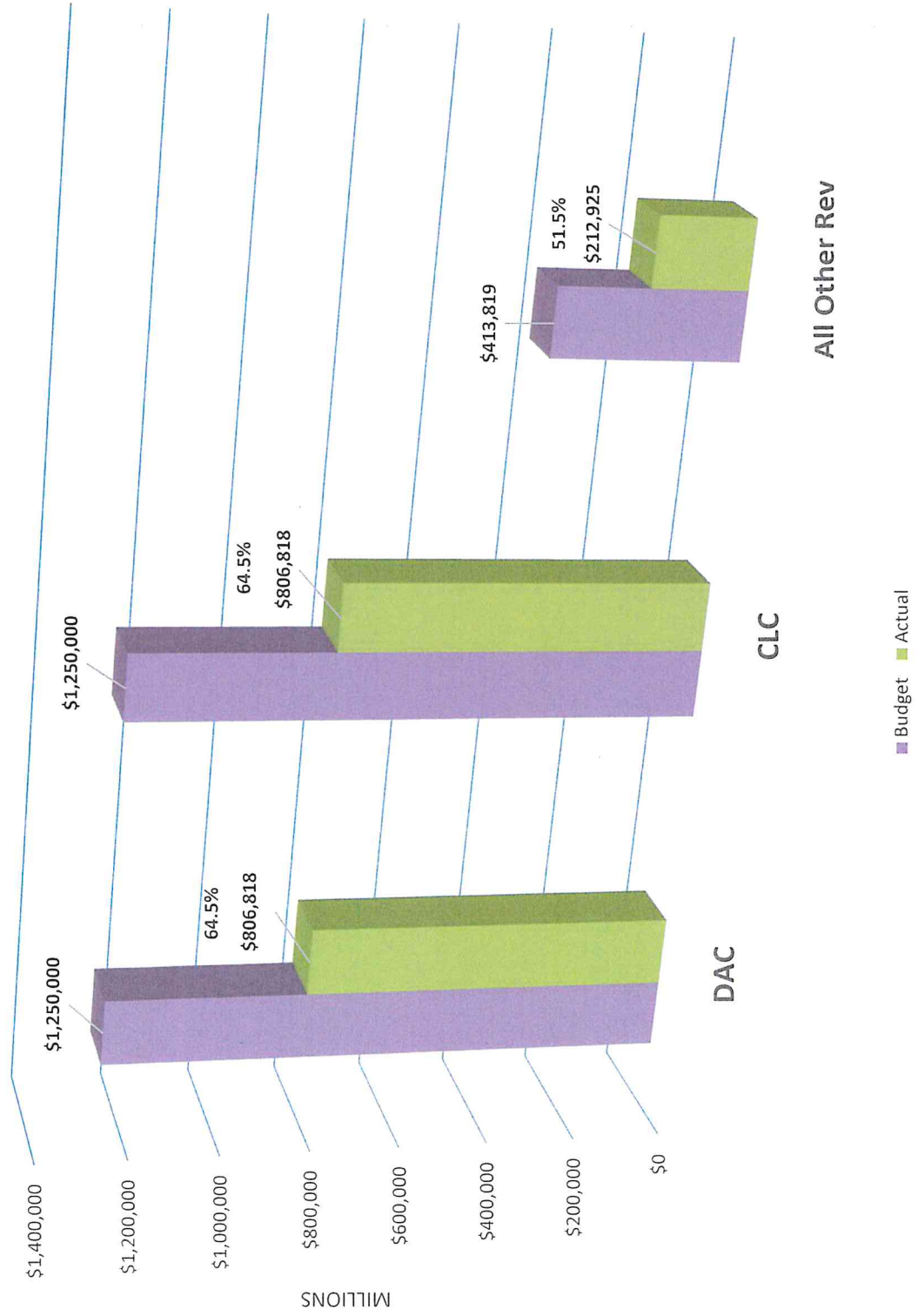
**Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures,  
And Changes in Fund Balance  
For the Period Ended January 31, 2019 (Unaudited)**

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

**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)**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual/Bgt %</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Pet licenses CLC	\$ 50,000	\$ 21,684	43.4%
Pet licenses DAC	20,000	10,528	52.6%
Vaccinations	30,000	11,214	37.4%
Pet micro-chip	50,000	12,505	25.0%
Onsite adoptions	60,000	28,030	46.7%
Return to owner-Dona Ana County	10,000	5,583	55.8%
Return to owner-City of Las Cruces	25,000	13,982	55.9%
Spay/neuter	70,000	30,334	43.3%
Dona Ana County	1,250,000	806,818	64.5%
City of Las Cruces	1,250,000	806,818	64.5%
City of Anthony	3,000	2,695	89.8%
Donations & memorials	33,619	17,010	50.6%
City of Sunland Park	2,000	140	7.0%
Village of Hatch	200	105	52.5%
Other revenue	23,000	23,615	102.7%
Investment income	17,000	15,499	91.2%
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u><b>2,913,819</b></u>	<u><b>1,826,561</b></u>	<b>62.7%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Personnel	1,935,355	1,073,887	55.5%
Temp agency services	100,000	45,486	45.5%
Repairs and maintenance	45,000	32,325	71.8%
Services	451,000	261,040	57.9%
Supplies	237,119	117,956	49.7%
Insurance	85,129	41,376	48.6%
Other	61,000	18,479	30.3%
Capital outlay	91,500	-	0.0%
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<u><b>3,006,103</b></u>	<u><b>1,590,549</b></u>	<b>52.9%</b>
Net income (loss)	<u><b>(92,284)</b></u>	<u><b>236,012</b></u>	
Transfer to capital from operations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
<b>Net change in fund balance</b>	<u><b>\$ (92,284)</b></u>	<u><b>236,012</b></u>	
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>		<u>220,228</u>	
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>		<u><b>\$ 456,240</b></u>	

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**

Fund	Project	Project Name	Award Amount	Life-to-Date Expenditures	Remaining Balance	Type	End Date	Purpose
7441	11627	STERN DONATION	\$ 50,000	-	\$ 50,000	Donation	upon completion	The Kern donation provides funding strictly for costs associated with the renovation of the cat room.
7441	11628	PETCO GRANT	\$ 38,000	38,000	\$ -	Grant	Pending	The grant funds support costs associated with constructing a new adoption lobby, office support space, and renovating existing admin area.
7441	11732	PETSMART RENOVATION	\$ 77,000	-	\$ 77,000	Grant	07/31/19	The grant funds will be used to construct and renovate the shelter infirmary area, i.e. concrete slab work, plumbing, electrical work.
7440	11764	PETSMART	\$ 20,000	20,000	\$ -	Grant	08/31/19	The grant funds support costs associated with transportation, vaccination , health certificates , medical treatment.

**ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF THE MESILLA VALLEY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNING BOARD FOR THE ANIMAL SERVICE CENTER OF THE MESILLA VALLEY TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018.**

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 14<sup>th</sup> 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

Wayne A. Johnson  
State Auditor



C. Jack Emmons, CPA, CFE  
Deputy State Auditor

**State of New Mexico**  
**OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR**

Via Email

December 20, 2018

SAO Ref. No. 4065

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Wayne A. Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Wayne A. Johnson  
State Auditor

cc: Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC