



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Personnel & Animal Welfare Committee Meeting August 5, 2014 Item 12-1967-S2 Public Comment

1 message

judy cairns <judycairns2012@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: judy cairns <judycairns2012@yahoo.com>
To: "Adam.Lid@lacity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

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Item 12-1967-S2, Department of Los Angeles Animal Services reports relative to acceptance of \$380,000. donation from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for New Hope fee, fails to address a myriad of issues, some of which have already been manifested since the implementation of the New Hope Program changes under the direction of LAAS General Manager Brenda Barnette.

During her General Manager's Report during the city of Los Angeles Board of Animal Services Commissioners Meeting held on June 24, 2014 at the Harbor Animal Shelter in San Pedro, California, Department GM Barnette revealed that cats seized during a recent animal hoarding raid at a location in Long Beach, California, were tracked back to coming from the city of Los Angeles' animal shelters AND her own Los Angeles Animal Services New Hope Program. She stated that the New Hope "partners" involved with the unfortunate cats that were confiscated during the anti-cruelty raid were reprimanded.

One of the primary concerns about the waiving of all fees, providing no cost sterilization, vaccines and

microchips of animals dispersed under the current New Hope Program is that there is apparently NO TRACKING of who or where the New Hope animals ultimately end up. The Long Beach New Hope hoarding/anti-cruelty case might be the tip of the proverbial hoarding/cruelty iceberg involving animals placed with partners under the New Hope Program.

Yesterday when I contacted ASPCA's own Senior Vice President Forensic Sciences and Anti-Cruelty Project Randall Lockwood, PhD, he was not aware that ANY hoarding cases were directly involved with the LAAS' New Hope Program. Dr. Lockwood's extensive work regarding hoarding and anti-cruelty issues and their impact on the local community is highly respected nationally by humane society and animal control professionals.

The additional financial donation to any "qualified" New Hope Partner's adoption of an animal from LAAS's New Hope Program of \$150. to the Partner from Best Friends Animal Society plus spcaLA's \$50. bonus donation to the Partner for a total of \$200. per New Hope Program animal acquired by the Partner make the acquisition of the animal from the LAAS New Hope Program an extremely attractive financial proposition. The New Hope Partner would also have the financial benefit of potentially getting their own adoption fee added to their "no cost to them" New Hope animal.

The wholesale giveaway of LAAS shelter animals under

Ms. Barnette's New Hope Program fails to address the primary underlying issues that cause shelter crowding of animals while encouraging hoarding, creating an animal rescue "industry" through her pay-to-play adoption financially based and lucrative incentives to the New Hope Partners and potentially placing animals in horrendously cruel circumstance -- all in the name of achieving "no-kill shelters"... a misguided and erratically executed program with an unsustainable future.

Judy Cairns
P.O. Box 826
San Pedro, CA 90733
[562-485-8313](tel:562-485-8313)