

For City Council File 14-0022

Garcetti Reappoints Absentee, Delinquent Commish

By Daniel Guss

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has reappointed Roger Wolfson to the LA Animal Services Commission, which City Council will undoubtedly unanimously reconfirm on Tuesday.

An attorney and television writer whose last IMDB credit was in 2012, Wolfson had no qualifications or prior experience when first appointed, and has since that time failed to consistently attend the twice monthly meetings or do much of the work of a Commissioner except for his self-described “personal” humane pursuits.

“He’s so arrogant that he can’t seem to be bothered to show up at all very often,” said Marla Tauscher, an attorney involved in humane affairs inside and out of the city, and who recently filed suit against LAAS. ***“In the last 4 meetings I’ve attended, he hasn’t been at three and was late to the fourth. If he’s so busy he can’t make it, he should resign. It’s not as if we can’t live without his searing insight.”***

Tauscher is right.

In 2015, of the 22 LAAS meetings that Wolfson was supposed to attend, he was either absent (4x) or late (5x) 41% of the time. And it is tough to tell whether he rolled out of bed in time for the 10am and occasional 7pm meetings in 2014 because he refuses to force LAAS to post the meeting minutes for that year, 76% of which are still missing from the LAAS website.

In 2014, Wolfson did offer a written observation about LAAS before he acknowledged that he was warned that one does not criticize LAAS when on the Commission.

“(LAAS is) a leaking rowboat, Dan. No way to plug all the holes at once. I’m doing my best,” he wrote in an August 28, 2014 email. **LINK:** https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/photo/Tu4ZwRB81OEoNZwKKe04V8ZpVWt7U3tQZYh_B8VLXKM?feat=directlink

To date, Wolfson’s “best” resulted in none of those holes plugged or even addressed honestly, including:

- The 8,807 pet “adoptions” that the city falsified by simply shuffling animals between cages in city-owned buildings, while Garcetti falsely told the public that “adoptions were up”
- The inconsistently applied \$25 drop off fee that is written in LAAS policy for people bringing an animal to a city shelter, while Garcetti falsely told the public that “impounds are down”
- Failure to enforce no pet sales laws or to determine why breeder permits are available to anyone who wishes to breed their animals, including pits and Chihuahuas, the two types of dogs LAAS kills the most
- Failure to pick up stray animals reported to LAAS

- Inability to collect millions of dollars in annual dog licensing revenue, including from Wolfson himself, who failed to pay his dog license fees to the city until he was first appointed by Garcetti, and even then, only for the present year due. According to LAAS records, his obligation remains unpaid, as are his unassessed late fees that others, including City Council president Herb Wesson, are charged when it was determined that he, too, was delinquent.

Wolfson's delinquency is treated differently than was that of his predecessor Ruthanne Secunda, a wealthy literary agent who was terminated from the appointment when it was discovered that she voted on city leash and licensing laws while disregarding both herself.

Councilmember Paul Koretz, at that time, wrote in an email, ***"A Commissioner violating a leash law and license law that she voted on or at least clearly knew about is unacceptable. The fact that she acted once she was caught and licensed her animals shouldn't impress anyone.... Your commissioner is an idiot and absolutely should go."*** LINK: https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/photo/qKn_W-N5S3iZACRMitdSw8ZpVWt7U3tQZYh_B8VLXKM?feat=directlink

Later in Koretz's email, he erroneously referred to me as a ***"moron"*** for pointing out Secunda's failures, and somehow concluded that it was a criticism of the LAAS GM. Note: Koretz at first denied writing the email, but apologized in person after shown a copy of it.

At the last Commission meeting that Wolfson actually attended, he called for more night time meetings that are held at the local shelters, but simultaneously tried to reduce the amount of speaking time that local attendees could share their concerns, rendering such meetings moot. Why have meetings in the community if you are not dedicated to listening to the community?

Wolfson, who did not respond to requests for comment for this article, also admitted the emotional atmosphere in the shelter is so ***"intense"*** that sometimes he can't go back for several weeks.

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