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EDWARD A. BOKS
GENERAL MANAGER

February 16, 2007

Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council

Attention: Lauraine Braithwaite

Honorable Members:

During the Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget deliberations, the Department of Animal Services (Department) was instructed by City Council to research and report back on two items: additional surveillance cameras and resources required to ensure the safety of shelter employees; and to provide a 10-year history of animals licensed. The following information is being provided in response to their instructions.

Surveillance Cameras

Under the Prop F – Animal Facilities Bond program, renovated/expanded facilities were to receive some additional security equipment, such as cameras and keycard access systems, while new shelters would include surveillance cameras and keycard access. As part of the program, the Department requested quotes from the City's contractor for each of the facilities for an optimum security installation plan. Upon receiving the quotes, it became apparent that the amount allocated in the original construction budget would not cover the costs associated with the optimum approach.

The original construction budget allocated \$267,000 to three shelters (East Valley, West Valley, and Northeast), \$200,000 to two shelters (West LA and Harbor), and \$75,000 for one shelter (North Central). These monies were to be used for: cabling of each facility; wiring of the public address systems; wiring for both computers and telephones; and installation of the security systems. To date, the Information Technology Agency (ITA) has utilized over 90% of each shelter's budgeted amount for the installation of cabling and wiring, thereby leaving only a fraction of the resources for the security systems. As a result, the projects are only receiving installation of a few cameras and keycard access.

In connection with overall concerns about security at Animal Care Centers, the Department of General Services (GSD) submitted a report dated May 23, 2006, to the Public Safety Committee

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detailing their analysis of optimum security equipment at each facility, and noting GSD’s lack of available resources to provide a dedicated patrol for our facilities. Estimated costs to establish and provide a dedicated patrol for this Department would be approximately \$785,000 annually. Their report also included a recommendation for additional cameras to be located at each shelter along with a complete integrated keycard access control and monitoring system. To date, quotes have been received from the City’s contractor, RD Systems, for the newly renovated North Central Animal Care Center and the South Los Angeles Animal Care Center, of \$63,000 and \$85,000, respectively. These quotes would include the installation of new and/or additional cameras (as recommended by GSD) and video recorders to tape incidents that may occur throughout the facility. Based on the two quotes, it is estimated that final costs will run approximately \$85,000 per facility, requiring an additional \$425,000 to provide for full camera security and integrated keycard access systems at all seven facilities which would be optimal.

As construction is completed at each of the remaining facilities, the Department will contact RD Systems to conduct on-site analysis in order to provide quotes on the installation of cameras and monitors, integrated keycard access control where it does not exist or needs embellishment, and recording systems. At this juncture, the Department has and will continue to move into new or expanded facilities in which the minimal security has been installed. As we utilize the facilities and work with the contractor on estimates that reflect our actual needs, we will prepare as necessary a budget request for 2008-2009 for security enhancements, including possibly some funding for security patrol rather than entirely passive camera surveillance.

10-Year History of Animal Licenses

As requested by the Budget and Finance Committee, the following charts contain the Department’s 10-year historical licensing data.

Year	Animals Licensed	License Fee	
		Altered	Unaltered
1996-97	137,489	\$10	\$30
1997-98	145,036	\$10	\$30
1998-99	158,114	\$10	\$30
1999-00	152,675	\$10	\$30 / \$100*
2000-01	137,889	\$10	\$100
2001-02	130,060	\$10	\$100
2002-03	143,603	\$10	\$100
2003-04	131,522	\$10	\$100
2004-05	130,121	\$10	\$100
2005-06	124,802	\$10	\$100
2006-07	120,000 est.	\$10 / \$15**	\$100

* = Unaltered license fee increased from \$30 to \$100 during this fiscal year.
 ** = Altered license fee increased from \$10 to \$15 on January 1, 2007.

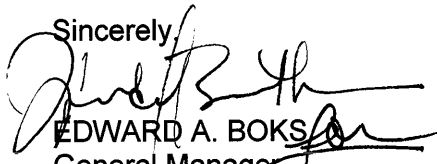
Year	Animals Spayed/Neutered
1996-97	881*
1997-98	15,820
1998-99	18,969
1999-00	19,092
2000-01	25,581
2001-02	35,466
2002-03	28,930
2003-04	32,236
2004-05	35,147
2005-06	38,330
2006-07	45,000 est.
* = Spay and Neuter Adoption Program only	

In reviewing the historical data, the following factors should be considered.

- Since implementation of the increased unaltered license fee In FY 99-00, a steady decline in the number of licenses issued has occurred.
- At the time of the increase, no additional enforcement resources were provided to ensure compliance with mandated licensing laws.
- The Department has continued to actively promote the need and importance of spaying and neutering. Just some of the examples of our proactive outreach include holding low-cost clinics, mobile van events, and distribution of discount coupons.
- Proof of licensing is not required when an animal is spayed or neutered by an outside veterinarian as part of a coupon subsidy program or mobile program; therefore, we cannot extrapolate a nexus between animals we have assisted in getting spayed or neutered with the licensing at altered versus unaltered fees.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide additional information. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me or Mrs. Linda Barth, Assistant General Manager for Administration, at (213) 482-9558.

Sincerely,


EDWARD A. BOKSA
General Manager

EAB:LB/la

cc: Linda Barth ✓
Jeffrey S. Brill ✓
Catherine Garcia ✓ 2/16