

# CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**TARZANA  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
P.O. Box 571016  
Tarzana, CA 91357

TELEPHONE (818) 921-4992  
[tnc@tarzananc.org](mailto:tnc@tarzananc.org)  
[www.tarzananc.org](http://www.tarzananc.org)



**TARZANA  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

C/O Department of Neighborhood  
Empowerment  
200 N. Spring St. Suite 2005  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
TELEPHONE (213) 978-1551  
Fax (213) 978-1751

## **TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Tarzana Child Care Center  
5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356,

Chairman - Jeffrey Mausner  
Committee members

Mary Aratounian, Eva Brusa, Lynn Davis, Janet Mausner, Deanna Dylan Scott, Renee Shamloo, Debbie Shreve Trejo, and Jennifer Varela

The public is requested to fill out a **“Speaker Card”** to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board.

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Minutes of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) meeting, September 11, 2017, at the Tarzana Child Care Center, 5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356.

1. Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M. Attending were the following committee members: Mary Aratounian, Eva Brusa, Lynn Davis, Janet Mausner, Deanna Dylan Scott, Debbie Shreve Trejo, and Jeffrey Mausner. Also attending were Heidi Okuhara (West Valley Shelter Volunteer), Maureen Finan (Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee, who is working on creating a Dog Park in Chatsworth), Charity Rowsny, and others. Jim Bickhart, Policy and Legislation Consultant from Councilmember Paul Koretz’s office, also attended.
2. Minutes from the May 9, 2017 meeting were approved, unanimously, 7-0. Moved by Eva, seconded by Deanna.
3. Discussion of California Assembly Bill (AB) 1199, the Pet Canine Encounters Protection Act, which is currently pending in the California Assembly. This bill will require mandatory in-service canine encounter training for California peace officers on how to quickly and safely respond to unexpected situations when

encountering a dog. The training will teach police officers how to protect themselves without having to kill or severely injure the dog in certain threatening situations. As stated by the sponsoring organization, Social Compassion in Legislation (SCIL), it is estimated that every ninety-eight minutes a dog is shot by law enforcement in the United States. This is a devastating situation for both the family and for the police officer involved. See <https://www.socialcompassioninlegislation.org/police-canine> for more information about AB 1199 and some very disturbing pictures of a police shooting of a dog.

AB 1199 was held-up in the Appropriations committee in May, based on concern regarding costs. Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian is the bill's author. Texas, Colorado, and Ohio have passed similar legislation.

Jim explained that this is a mandated bill, so funding for it is required. He stated that SCIL is going to be discussing a pilot program for this type of training in Los Angeles. He said that a training video would not be very expensive.

Maureen said that police-dog encounters take place not only when arrests are made, but also when police officers deal with homeless persons who have dogs.

The following resolution was passed: **Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution of support for AB 1199, the Pet Canine Encounters Protection Act, send a letter to Assembly Member Nazarian informing him of its support and thanking him for his work on the bill, and file a Community Impact Statement supporting the City Council Resolution supporting this bill, Council File No. 17-0002-S66.**

Passed unanimously, 7-0. Moved by Mary, seconded by Eva.

4. Discussion regarding use of all kennels at the West Valley Animal Shelter, including the Training Kennels, Puppy Kennels, and kennels in the Grooming Room, before any healthy adoptable animals are killed for lack of space at any of the City Shelters. Recently, the West Valley Animal Shelter has stopped using the 8 "Training Kennels" next to the exercise yard and the 8 "Puppy Kennels" in the center of the dog kennel complex. These kennels were used successfully during the 4th of July period in 2016, so that no healthy adoptable dogs were killed at West Valley. Now those kennels are all vacant, along with the 7 kennels in the air conditioned Grooming Room. Jeff reported that there were 32 empty kennels at West Valley yesterday (September 10); there have been at least 25, and usually more than 30, vacant kennels at West Valley for well over a month. Jeff stated that he thought those kennels should all be used before any healthy adoptable dogs are killed at any of the City Shelters for lack of space. Dogs should be transferred to West Valley from other Shelters, rather than being killed, if these kennels are vacant. Killing of dogs at South L.A. Shelter and North Central Shelter was discussed.

It was discussed whether some kennels should be kept vacant for a large influx of dogs, for example from a hoarder or emergency. It was decided by unanimous consent that the Resolution should not be amended to provide for this; dogs should not be killed for lack of space for some eventuality that might not happen. If there is a large influx, it can be dealt with when it happens.

The following resolution was passed: **Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution supporting the use of all kennels at the West Valley Animal Shelter, including the Training Kennels, Puppy Kennels, and kennels in the Grooming Room, before any healthy adoptable animals are killed for lack of space at any of the City Shelters, and communicate its support of this use to Brenda Barnette, General Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services, Dana Brown and Louis Dedeaux, Assistant General Managers, and Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield.**

Passed unanimously, 7-0. Moved by Eva, seconded by Deanna and Jeff.

5. Discussion regarding implementation of No-Kill of healthy adoptable dogs, cats, rabbits, and other animals at the City Animal Shelters by December 31, 2017. The Mayor and City Council have set a goal of achieving No-Kill of healthy adoptable dogs and cats at the City Animal Shelters by December 31, 2017. The stated goal of the City is to save the lives of all healthy and adoptable dogs and healthy cats in the possession of the Department of Animal Services and help them find good "forever homes." On a statistical basis, this is generally considered as saving 90 percent or more of the cats and dogs coming through the sheltering system; the remaining 10% are, on a statistical basis, animals who are too sick or aggressive to be saved. The proposed resolution is to reach and maintain that goal by December 31, 2017, with no further extensions of time.

It was stated that sometimes small animals (hamsters, mice, etc.) are killed at the Shelter before they are recorded, so they are not counted in the no-kill statistics.

The Resolution was unanimously amended to add "and all other animals," as shown below.

The following resolution was passed: **Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution of support for the implementation of No-Kill of healthy adoptable dogs, cats, rabbits, and all other animals at the City Animal Shelters by December 31, 2017, communicate its support of this to Brenda Barnette, General Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services, Dana Brown and Louis Dedeaux, Assistant General Managers, and Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield, and file a Community Impact Statement in support of the City Council's reaffirmance of this goal, Council File No. 17-0170.**

Passed unanimously, 7-0. Moved by Janet, seconded by Mary.

6. Discussion of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding the proposed Citywide Cat Program (Trap, Neuter, Return - TNR - of

Free Roaming Cats). The cost of the Environmental Impact Report for the Free-Roaming Cat Program was discussed. Jim explained that the cost was so high because it had to cover the entire City, approximately 475 square miles. Jeff stated that the City had to expend this amount (which could otherwise be used to pay for thousands of spay/neuters of free roaming cats) because of the Urban Wildlands Group, Audubon Society, and the other plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the City. Lynn suggested that the EIR include a study of the impact on the number of rats in the City if free roaming cats are killed rather than neutered and returned.

The following resolution was passed: **Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution and file a Community Impact Statement in support of City Council File 17-0413, relative to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in connection with the proposed Citywide Cat Program, which directs appropriate City Departments to prepare an EIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act utilizing the Project Description as detailed in the April 11, 2017 Department of Animal Services (DAS) report; communicate its support of this to Brenda Barnette, General Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services, Dana Brown, Assistant General Manager, Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield, and the City Attorney's Office; and thank them for their continued support.**

Passed unanimously, 7-0. Moved by Deanna, seconded by Debbie.

7. A resolution passed **submitting a request to the Budget Committee to purchase a "Bone Pool," a wading pool for dogs, for the use of the Volunteers at the West Valley Shelter, for an amount not to exceed \$300.00.** This will allow the dogs to cool off on hot days on the exercise yard.

Passed unanimously, 7-0. Moved by Lynn, seconded by Debbie.

8. A resolution passed **submitting a request to the Budget Committee to purchase an approximately 12 x 20 foot canopy for the use of the Volunteers at the West Valley Shelter, in the back yard, for an amount not to exceed \$300.00.** This will provide shade for the Volunteers when they take the dogs into the back yard. The previous canopy we purchased was for the exercise yard and has proven to be very popular with the Volunteers, shielding them from the sun and providing some relief from the high temperatures.

Passed unanimously, 7-0. Moved by Debbie, seconded by Lynn.

9. Discussion took place regarding the killing of dogs, cats, and other animals at the City Animal Shelters. The City has not yet achieved No-Kill.

10. Comments by the Chair and discussion regarding:

a. RFP (Request for Proposals) for the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter. I've been telling you for about a year about the possibility of the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter in South LA, the abandoned South LA Shelter. As you know, we were involved with Council President Wesson in pushing that through the City process,

getting an RFP issued for a Rescue Organization to run the Shelter. The City even spent more than \$1 million to fix it up. But then no rescue organization that had the resources to run it was willing to do so.

Good news!!!: There is now a Rescue Organization that wants to run the Shelter. Thank you to the Animal Welfare Committee, the full Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC), the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), VANC President and Commissioner Jill Banks Barad, TNC President and Commissioner Len Shaffer, Animal Activist Paul Darrigo, Los Angeles Animal Services, and especially to City Council President Herb Wesson and his Deputy Jordan Beroukhim, who have helped bring this project this far. Hopefully, the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter will be opening soon, saving the lives of cats and dogs in South L.A. and throughout the City.

b. Bella and Toffy, two dog who were transferred from the West Valley Shelter to the South L.A. Shelter, have now been rescued.

c. Volunteers at the West Valley Animal Shelter. We are finally starting to get more Volunteers at the West Valley Shelter. A new Volunteer Coordinator for all the Shelters, Victoria Garcia, has been hired.

d. AB 485, the Pet Rescue and Adoption Act. The Bill has passed both the California Assembly and Senate. It is awaiting Governor Brown's signature. Great job by the sponsoring organization, Social Compassion in Legislation (SCIL), and to our Assemblymember Matt Dababneh, who was principal co-author of the Bill.

8. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee's subject matter jurisdiction.

The death of the dog named Mugsley as a result of heat exhaustion from being transported in a LAAS truck on a very hot day. LAAS still doesn't have the new air-conditioned trucks which have been promised for years. Now we have a new promise that the deliveries will be starting this month, with additional trucks delivered each month. Jim explained the problems which had been experienced in connection with the air conditioning for the trucks.

The injury that was caused to the dog Oliver by a West Valley ACT (Animal Care Technician).

Excessive heat in the dog kennels at the West Valley Animal Shelter.

9. Committee member comments on subject matter within the Committee's jurisdiction. None, other than those set forth above.

10. Future agenda items and other calendar events. None.

11. Adjournment at 9:07 PM.

For more information about the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and Animal Welfare Committee please visit our web site at [www.tarzananc.org](http://www.tarzananc.org), [http://tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee\\_id=25](http://tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=25)

For information about the Temporary Animal Foster Parent Program at the West Valley Shelter, and for an application to become a foster parent, please visit: [http://tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee\\_id=25](http://tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=25) and <http://tarzananc.org/docs/1307-1082.pdf>

For information about dogs, cats, and rabbits available at the West Valley Animal Shelter, please visit our Featured Shelter Animals page at [http://tarzananc.org/shelter.php?dbshelter\\_categories\\_id=1](http://tarzananc.org/shelter.php?dbshelter_categories_id=1)

**Any materials that may be distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the above scheduled meeting are available for review by the public at 19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335.**

**In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the committee in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: [www.tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee\\_id=4](http://www.tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=4), or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact us at [tnc@tarzananc.org](mailto:tnc@tarzananc.org) or 818-921-4992**

**Process for Reconsideration** – Reconsideration of Board actions shall be in accordance with the Tarzana Neighborhood Council bylaws.