



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

PIMA COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
130 W. CONGRESS, FLOOR 10, TUCSON, AZ 85701-1317
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C.H. HUCKELBERRY
County Administrator

April 22, 2015

Jack Neuman, Chairman
Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee
4000 N. Silverbell Road
Tucson, Arizona 85745

Re: Your September 26, 2014 Letter Regarding the Addition of Four Additional Pima Animal Care Center Field Officers in the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget

Dear Mr. Neuman:

On April 16, 2015, I attended the regular meeting of the appointed leadership of the jurisdictions within Pima County that have Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) with Pima County. During that meeting, the Pima Animal Care Advisory Committee's (PACCAC) request for four additional field enforcement officers was discussed. The jurisdictions, which pay proportionally for these services, shared their concerns over existing animal services expenses and did not support the addition of four field officers in the next fiscal year.

Additionally, effective July 1, 2015, the Governor and State Legislature will transfer approximately \$23 million in State expenses to Pima County. This unbudgeted cost shift from the State to the County has required the County to take significant cost savings steps to minimize impacts to existing services. In addition to a temporary hiring freeze, I have directed County departments to plan for a two percent budget reduction for the next fiscal year.

Therefore, I will not approve the PACCAC requested staff increase at this time. The County remains committed to PACC at its current level of service and will continue to pursue all options to maintain those services.

Mr. Neuman

Re: **Your September 26, 2014 Letter Regarding the Addition of Four Additional Pima Animal Care Center Field Officers in the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Budget**

April 22, 2015

Page 2

I have, however, approved the hiring action for the vacant veterinary position to proceed without delay.

Sincerely,



C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: The Honorable Chair and Members, Pima County Board of Supervisors
 Jan Leshner, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
 Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Health Department
 Kim Janes, Chief of External Affairs, Pima Animal Care Center
 Kristin Barney, Chief of Operations, Pima Animal Care Center
 Pima Animal Care Center Advisory Committee



PIMA COUNTY ANIMAL CARE CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
4000 N. SILVERBELL RD TUCSON, AZ 85745
(520) 243-5909 FAX (520) 243-5954
www.pimaanimalcare.org

September 26, 2014

The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 W. Congress, Eleventh Floor
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Dear Chair and Members:

The Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee strongly urges the Board of Health and Board of Supervisors to support the Pima Animal Care Center's request for four additional Field Officers.

As you know, from the Six City & County review, our organization is severely understaffed and over-utilized. Our Field Officers cover the second largest physical area of the six communities reviewed at 9200 Square Miles. The largest in size is Maricopa County at 9224 square miles. Pima County only has 25 field officers to serve this large area, compared to the 30 Field Officers in Maricopa County. The Pima County Field Officers responded to 29,079 calls with the 25 Field Officers, while the Maricopa County 30 Field Officers respond to only 21,368 calls.

Our Officers respond to all calls ranging from nuisance calls, animal waste calls, strays, wildlife issues, welfare and neglect issues and animal bites. The other respondents answer a variety of calls but delegate many of these calls to other agencies.

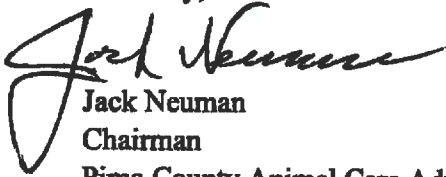
There are several examples of the disparity in responsibilities and manpower of the Pima County Field officers compared to those of the other locations in the study. First, Maricopa & Clark Counties refer wildlife issues to their State's Game and Fish departments, while San Antonio refers these calls to Texas Wildlife and Fish. Pima County Field Officers answer wild animal calls. Further, Welfare and Neglect cases are referred to Law Enforcement in Maricopa County, and their Field Officers are only called if animals need to be transported to the Humane Society for sheltering. Pima County Field Officers handle the welfare and neglect calls, only calling law enforcement when back up is needed. Finally, Animal Waste issues are handled by zoning departments in Maricopa County as well as in San Antonio and Austin, Texas. These issues are also handled by our understaffed field officers in Pima County.

At this time the citizens of Pima county are considering a 22 million dollar Bond to rebuild the Pima Animal Care Center. Unfortunately many people in the county do not understand how hard the staff at PACC work. Unless they come to the Center, they do not see the hard working staff who are trying to save and rehabilitate

The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors
September 26, 2014
Page 2 of 2

as many animals as possible, to then adopt them into good homes. The most publicly visible representatives of Pima County's efforts on the behalf of pets are the Field Officers on the street. These officers often times come to community events to educate the public on the services that PACC provides for the county, in addition to all the other service calls they make. But with only 25 Officers available, dispatch must tell many callers that they will have to wait, or that the officer cannot attend the issue at this time, but will come as soon as possible. Our Field Officers would be able to better serve the community, and demonstrate to the public the progress that Pima County has made with regard to animal welfare, if there were more of them. As it is now, our Officers are spread too thin and stretched to the breaking point. They need help and we urge you to approve the funds for the four extra officers we need.

Sincerely,



Jack Neuman
Chairman
Pima County Animal Care Advisory Committee

cc: President and Members, Pima County Board of Health
C.H. Huckelberry, Pima County Administrator
Jan Leshner, Deputy Pima County Administrator, Medical and Health Services
Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Director, Pima County Health Department