

Animal Care & Control



AD HOC TASK FORCE

BUDGET & FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE

January 7, 2015 from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming back everyone from the holiday break. The Chair spoke about developing recommendations and asked Valerie Beckett to provide some background on the process. Ms. Beckett explained that all of the requests for information have been tracked as any recommendations. If members want to present first recommendations, staff will be assigned to gather information on each. At each meeting moving forward, the list may be reviewed and status updates provided. Some recommendations may be implemented prior to completion of the Task Force and will be included in the final report to the Board of Supervisors.

The next item on the agenda was to review the Benchmarking Study. The Chair explained that having a true apples-to-apples comparison is difficult as there are many variables across jurisdictions. In reviewing the matrix, a member asked that the per capita impound rates be added to the chart. Other areas identified for inclusion in the Benchmarking Study were Austin, Texas and Reno, NV (Washoe County).

The Chair explained that Humane Society of the United States reports an standards of \$8-\$10 per person to support animal population. In combining the open intake shelters in Maricopa County, MCACC and the AZ Humane Society, the cost calculation is about \$6.97 per person.

The below statistics for Maricopa County were offered for consideration:

Population = 4,009,412

Land = 9,200.14 sq. miles

Hispanic or Latino population = 30% or 1,202,823

Language other than English = 26.3% or 1,054,475

Persons without a high school diploma/degree = 14.4%

A member stated more money from the County's general tax fund needs to be allocated to shelter operations. A follow up question was asked as to what are other counties spending on

their shelters? Ms. Beckett stated that for final recommendations involving budget allocations, there must be close scrutiny of identified amounts and the related outcomes/benefits.

The Chair the opened the floor for members to propose recommendations to be explored:

- Consider having all license renewals expire at the same time each year, rather than having the licenses tied to Rabies vaccines. By having a universal or standing renewal date, i.e., property taxes, public outreach and notification may be improved as well as there may be some cost savings in administrative costs.
- Develop alternative form of delivery of license renewal notifications other than mail – possibly via email and possibly text.
- Increase funding for shelter operations from General Fund to be more in-line with the Humane Society of the U.S. to at least \$8.00 per capita.
- Conduct a formal review of fee structures involving comparisons to other jurisdictions.
- Improve East Shelter facility.
- Consider the cost of a new facility (far west or north valley).
- Explore the cost of additional satellite shelters like Scottsdale.
- Consider additional animal care staff.
- Consider the benefit of additional tiers of animal care technicians / job classification – possible a lower position that does not involve euthanasia responsibilities.
- Find out more about the creation of a Special Taxing District since such districts are exempt and not under same guidelines as departments.

ACTION ITEM(s):

- ◇ Research and share any project information related to improvements of the East Shelter.
- ◇ Gather information to share with members on the formation of Special Taxing Districts.
- ◇ Expand Benchmarking Study information.
- ◇ Evaluate fees schedules for other shelter operations as a comparison.