



John White <john.white@lacity.org>

Please add this to the Public Safety file and FULL City Council File

1 message

Daniel Guss <danielguss@gmail.com>
To: john.white@lacity.org

Fri, Jul 9, 2010 at 11:15 AM

Hi John:

Can you please add my email, below, to the files for Public Safety and the full City Council?

It's regarding my conversation with Brenda Barnette, the incoming GM of LA Animal Services, and questions that the Public Safety Cmte and the full City Council might want to consider asking her.

Please advise.

Thank you!

Daniel Guss

www.standfoundation.org

818-231-1108

Hi Brenda:

I am prefacing this email by reminding you that **my only public comment about you in one of my articles was a highly favorable one**, so I started from a position of **positivity**. If you would like to see this highly favorable comment, I will be glad to send it to you.

However, about 10 days ago, you solicited the questions that I had for you, and I readily submitted them. While they would only take 10 or so minutes to reply to, you have not done so, and you have declined to even have a conversation about them during your commute.

Since the event on July 11th is being moderated by someone who has already endorsed you, **there is no forum for people to ask you unfiltered questions**. That's especially unfortunate, given the problems L.A. had with your predecessor.

Accordingly, I am providing my questions, below, to local media, City Council, and

the City Clerk, so that they are on-record. **Ultimately, I hope you do extremely well in Los Angeles, as I recently told the L.A. Daily News and the L.A. Times. However, it is a bad idea to solicit legitimate questions, and then to stonewall them.** I hope I get the chance to say a ye

Since my 501(c)(3) charity is an adoption partner with many local shelters, including LAAS, I anticipate that my posing these questions will not have any impact on the quality of service that my charity receives as we all share the same goal of stopping needless killing; preventing suffering; and increase the quality of humane care in Los Angeles. My questions pertain to your ability to do them, given your affiliations with breeders, the AKC, and breeder lobbyists like PetPac. Not readily responding to such questions gives me and others concern about where your heart is.

While I am disappointed in your refusing to respond to my questions after soliciting them, I am readily available to speak or meet with you. Asking & answering questions should be much easier than this.

Respectfully,

Daniel Guss

www.standfoundation.org <<http://www.standfoundation.org/>>
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1. Seattle Humane touts an admirable 90% live release rate. But what is the live release rate for the public shelter you operate in, I believe, Renton?
 - 1a. In FYE 3-31-09, Seattle Humane lost 17% of its investment assets. What were those investments and who recommended them to Seattle Humane, and how did this impact your live-release rate?
2. You told KIRO-TV in Seattle that you "are as concerned as the breeders about the proposed new law." The law is an anti-puppy mill law. If you are as "concerned as the breeders" about puppy mill laws, we're doomed. Check out the KIRO link: <http://www.kirotv.com/news/18677601/detail.html> Your quote is near the end. What is your concern about anti puppy mill laws?
3. Why did you delete your Facebook Favorite Things "dog shows" and "PetPac" right after the nomination? If it is an innocent affiliation, deleting this unnecessarily creates concern and mistrust.
4. You have every right to breed your own dogs, rather than saving from Seattle

Humane. But I feel it sends the wrong message to those who "JUST WANT TO BREED MY DOG ONE TIME." How do you intend to promote spay/neuter when you opt to breed your dogs?

5. You told the LA Times that you intend to attend AKC shows while GM. Again, it sends the wrong message to those who are considering breeding their dogs or who are considering buying a dog. Or a cat. How can you assure people where your heart is despite your enjoyment in taking part in dog shows, even as GM you are supposed to promote a lower pet population?

6. At Seattle Humane, you had zero experience with street enforcement, licensing, mandatory acceptance of all animals brought in. How soon can we expect you to be up to speed on all of these issues?

7. Getting back to PetPac, if you really do have a relationship with them, or even an admiration for them, how do we know you are going to go full bore on raising spay/neuter funds and lobby local and state governments for stronger spay/neuter laws. Or are you against mandatory spay/neuter laws, if they're well funded for low cost or free s/n services?

8. What are you going to do about the pit bull epidemic in Los Angeles? At Seattle Humane, you refer to pits, partial pits, and potential pits. What is a "potential" pit and how does it differ from partial pits?

9. LA lost its canvassing program due to funding. But LAAS management (GM + 2 AGM) salaries total nearly \$500,000. Will you in your first year drop one of those AGM positions and reinstate the canvassing program? If not, then why?

10. What are you going to do about once again allowing rescuers to use spay/neuter funds for feral cat colonies?

11. What are you going to do to ensure that temperament testing for REHAB purposes is going to be done in a safe, peaceful environment for the dogs?

12. Will you implement, a bodies-in, bodies-out way of accounting of who truly leaves the shelter alive?

13. What are your FRESHEST marketing ideas are for spay/neuter and adoption in L.A? Specifics, please.

14. Have you ever authored a Strategic Plan, and if so, may I see one? I used to work at Strat Planning at Disney, and while I don't expect the same degree of analysis in it, LAAS is a smaller organization and should more readily be able to

detail its direction.

15. What is your plan for tackling the extreme neglect for guard dog cruelty in Los Angeles? I provided you with a few dozen extremely graphic photos of current guard dog cruelty in L.A., to demonstrate that the problem is severe and grotesque. How will you tackle this problem?

16. City Hall is promoting your work at Seattle Humane as that of an "open-door" shelter, when many of its critical activities are done by appointment only. What are the facts of S.H.'s open-door or closed-door status?

17. And finally, since Los Angeles has a limited on the # of dogs and cats residents can have, and it is my understand that you have more than these limits, will the law be changed to accomodate your personal totals (and therefore to everyone else in the city)? If not, what are you going to do to ensure compliance with the local law. (I hope you're going to increase the numbers allowed to a reasonable level)
