

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council

Name: Mindy Mann

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(24) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/27/2022

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information

Date: 08/15/2022

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 22-1111-S10

Agenda Date: 08/16/2022

Item Number: 1

Summary: Like most Angelenos, members of the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council were appalled and disappointed by the reports in the Los Angeles Times of mistreatment of animals in the care of the Department of Animal Services. It appears that the Department is understaffed and lacks skilled managerial leadership, and these shortcomings led to a profound breach of moral duty. It is unfathomable how neither the PAAW Committee nor the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (made up entirely of Mayor Garcetti's appointees) gave any public indication of these problems and left it to a newspaper exposé and the honest words of volunteers to make these conditions known to the wider public. Smaller news outlets have documented these conditions before, including occupied animal living quarters overrun by rats. See continued letter in attached pdf.



August 10, 2022

Eric Garcetti, Mayor
City of Los Angeles

Paul Koretz, Chair
Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee
City of Los Angeles

Re: Treatment of Animals at City Shelters

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Koretz,

Like most Angelenos, members of the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council were appalled and disappointed by the reports in the *Los Angeles Times* of mistreatment of animals in the care of the Department of Animal Services. It appears that the Department is understaffed and lacks skilled managerial leadership, and these shortcomings led to a profound breach of moral duty.

It is unfathomable how neither the PAAW Committee nor the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (made up entirely of Mayor Garcetti's appointees) gave any public indication of these problems and left it to a newspaper exposé and the honest words of volunteers to make these conditions known to the wider public. Smaller news outlets have documented these conditions before, including occupied animal living quarters [overrun by rats](#).

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STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Bel Air Association
Bel-Air Crest Master Association
Bel Air Hills Association
Bel Air Ridge Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Casiano Estates Association
Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Assn.
Holmby Hills Homeowners Association
Laurel Canyon Association
Residents of Beverly Glen

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

Bel Air District
Bel Air Glen District
Franklin-Coldwater District
North of Sunset District

NON-RESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATION

At-Large Members
Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts
Custodians of Open Space
Faith-Based Institutions
Public Schools & Private Schools

BABCNC has a liaison appointed to coordinate with the Department of Animal Services, but the Department has not communicated with Neighborhood Council representatives for years even before the pandemic.

Further, volunteers who were indefinitely “suspended” after speaking to the media must be immediately reinstated. Terminating highly skilled volunteers of longstanding who run shelter programs such as dog playgroups, train other volunteers, and walk the more challenging dogs materially and seriously harms animals in the shelters. Retaliation against employee whistleblowers is illegal, and retaliation against volunteers is obviously wrong and erodes trust in our City’s governance structures.

The City’s leadership should also immediately consult with shelter volunteers on how to include them in discussions on solutions to the shelter system’s problems. One option that could be considered is the formation of a volunteers’ “Animal Services Advisory Committee,” with representatives elected by the volunteers from each of the City’s shelters.

The animals in the shelter system, the shelter volunteers, and the taxpayers, deserve the ethical treatment that would be provided by a better run department, and responsibility for delivering it falls to you and your appointees.

BABCNC will gather more information on this situation and engage with the Department directly. However, it seems clear that responsibility for the situation and a plan for action needs to be forthcoming from the Mayor’s Office immediately.

This letter was approved unanimously by the Board of the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council at a duly noticed regular meeting with a quorum present and voting on July 27, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Longcore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Travis Longcore, Ph.D.
President