



CITY OF FULLERTON

CITY COUNCIL

Office of the Mayor and City Council

Mayor, Greg Sebourn
Mayor Pro Tem, Jennifer Fitzgerald
Doug Chaffee
Jan M. Flory
Bruce Whitaker

September 17, 2015

The Honorable Glenda Sanders
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: City of Fullerton Response to Grand Jury Report: *"The Orange County Animal Shelter: the Facility, the Function, the Future."*

Dear Judge Sanders:

The following is the City of Fullerton's response to the findings and recommendations contained in the Grand Jury's Report, *"The Orange County Animal Shelter: the Facility, the Function, the Future."* The City of Fullerton was asked to respond to Recommendation R4.

Grand Jury Recommendation R-4:

"The 18 contracting cities need to review their long-term commitment to be part of Orange County Animal Care as opposed to pursuing animal-care opportunities on their own or joining with neighboring cities that have shelters. The contracting cities need to demand that the County provide them a viable plan with cost and schedule estimates for a new facility or facilities to evaluate as part of their commitment review."

City Response:

The City of Fullerton is committed to providing high quality, humane and reliable animal care services to our residents and their pets, and welcomes the Grand Jury's Report on this subject. While the City agrees that those cities that contract with Orange County Animal Care should review the continued feasibility of such a relationship, we believe further analysis is required to explore other models of service that could include a less centralized approach to countywide animal care services.

Each year the City of Fullerton reviews its contract with Orange County Animal Care for purposes of estimating costs to include in the City's budget. These analyses have shown

THE EDUCATION COMMUNITY

303 West Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, California 92832-1775
(714) 738-6311 • Fax (714) 738-6758 • council@ci.fullerton.ca.us • www.cityoffullerton.com



The Honorable Glenda Sanders
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
September 17, 2015
Page 2

that, while service levels have not changed, costs continue to rise. In addition, Orange County Animal Care has indicated that its contract cities will be assessed an additional fee to construct a new shelter without providing any additional information on this major capital project, as was noted in the Grand Jury Report. Given this uncertainty, and in an effort to improve animal care services for our residents, the City of Fullerton, in partnership with other North Orange County Cities, conducted a preliminary survey of animal care operations in surrounding jurisdictions to explore other service provision models. As stated in the Grand Jury's Finding 4 (F-4) and Recommendation 2 (R-2), it may be preferable to investigate the feasibility of having several locations for new animal shelters and/or satellite offices, as well as exploring creative partnerships with other cities, non-profit and for-profit organizations. At this time the City of Fullerton would like to consider a range of options that could include partnering with Orange County Animal Care on a single shelter, or looking at other ways to provide animal care services.

Should Orange County Animal Care wish to dialog further on the construction of a new animal shelter to serve the existing contract cities, the initial design should be done in collaboration with the contract cities rather than led solely by Orange County Animal Care. The contract cities should not be put into a position of having to react to a finished design as suggested in Findings 2 and 3 (F-2, F-3) and Recommendation 3 (R-3), but should instead have their input considered at the outset of the project. This attitude of partnership and collaboration with the contract cities would be very helpful in any further conversations regarding the future of animal care services in the County.

On behalf of the City of Fullerton, I want to thank you for your service and efforts. We hope that our response is helpful and look forward to a continuing dialog on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory C. Sebourn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

Gregory C. Sebourn
Mayor

cc: Paul S. Borzcik, Foreman
2014-2015 Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701