



CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

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August 20, 2008

Nancy Weiben Stock
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: City of Laguna Niguel Response to 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury Report entitled "Is Orange County Going to the Dogs?"

Dear Judge Weiben Stock:

On May 28, 2008, the 2007-2008 Orange County Grand Jury issued a report entitled: "Is Orange County Going to the Dogs?" The Mayors of all Orange County Cities that do not contract with OC Animal Care are required to respond to Finding F-1 and Recommendation R-1.

The responses from the City of Laguna Niguel are set forth below. It should be noted the City of Laguna Niguel contracts with the City of Mission Viejo for the provision of animal control and shelter services. Therefore, our response is based upon information provided to us by the City of Mission Viejo.

Finding F-1: Some cities using limited-access shelters are sending animals deemed unadoptable to the County Animal Shelter, thereby shifting the cost and responsibility for care and euthanasia to the County if the animals are not adopted.

City Response: Based on information provided by the City of Mission Viejo, the City disagrees with the finding. The Mission Viejo Animal Services Center (MVAS) by definition of the Grand Jury is a limited access shelter in that: 1) it does not provide euthanasia service; and (2) owner relinquished animals are only accepted if considered adoptable. However, when residents request euthanasia, they receive information on local veterinarians that can perform this service. If an animal is not accepted by MVAS as an owner relinquishment with the intention of finding a new home, they are referred to rescue groups. MVAS does not refer residents to Orange County Animal Services (OCAS) for euthanasia services or owner relinquishment.

Recommendation R-1: The cities utilizing limited-access shelters adopt an open-shelter policy for all dogs and cats within their city limits or reimburse the County Shelter for the expense of boarding and euthanizing animals from their cities.

City Response: Based on information provided by the City of Mission Viejo, the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Please see Response to Finding-1:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Grand Jury Report.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Glaab". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Paul Glaab
Mayor

Cc: City Council
City Manager
City Attorney
City Clerk