

# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** June 25, 2001

**FROM:** CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE PASADENA HUMANE SOCIETY FOR A MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER SYSTEM AND RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA for a period of three years, for operation of a municipal animal control program, animal shelter system and Rabies control program. The amount is not to exceed amount of the first year shall be \$837,000 which shall be adjusted annually based upon the change in the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside area for the latest available preceding 12-month period.
2. Grant this contract an exemption from the vendor selection process of the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance PMC 4.09 pursuant to Section 4.09.060(C) contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The California Health and Safety Code, Section 1920, mandates that the governing body of each city maintains an animal control shelter system and a Rabies control program to provide for public health and safety. The primary components of an animal and rabies control program include: stray animal control, canine immunizations, public education, and animal bite investigations. Among the options available to the City of Pasadena to facilitate compliance are: (a) City administered animal control services; (b) contracting with Los Angeles County to provide the service; and (c) contracting with a public or private entity other than Los Angeles County.

Due to budgetary constraints, a City administered animal and Rabies control program is not a recommended option. Annual City expenditures would be required for direct and indirect costs, including personnel wages and benefits, operating supplies, and operating support systems such as radios, telephones and computers. The City would

also have to construct and maintain a permanent animal control shelter system, which may require the acquisition of real property.

Contract negotiations with the Pasadena Humane Society began in February 2001. Staff had concern about the initial amount requested by the Humane Society for the FY 2002 animal control contract. Staff explored other available options with a cost that would be less than the Humane Society's initial contract proposal. The Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control Department, the Glendale Humane Society and the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society were called to solicit their interest in contracting with the City for animal control services.

Staff found that the approximate cost for animal control services by the Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control Department would be \$797,000 for FY 2002. Although the County's proposal is less than the Humane Society's proposal, contracting with the County is not a recommended option for several reasons. First, the nearest animal control shelter for Pasadena residents is located in Baldwin Park. The County shelter would pose an inconvenience for Pasadena residents because of the approximate forty minutes travel time versus an average of ten minutes a resident would travel to the Pasadena Humane Society for services. The City of La Canada-Flintridge discontinued their animal control contract with the County because of the distance their residents had to travel for services. Presently, La Canada-Flintridge contracts animal control services with the Pasadena Humane Society.

Secondly, the County's general philosophy regarding the treatment of impounded animals differs from the Pasadena Humane Society and similar animal welfare organizations. The adoption rate for animals handled by the Pasadena Humane Society is approximately 90%, whereas the County does not maintain records on their adoption rate, but it is assumed that the County's adoption rate is less than 90% because of the larger number of animals impounded by the County and the limited resources the County has to promote animal adoption. Finally, the quality of service by the County would not equal that of the Humane Society in the areas of code enforcement, response time to answer complaints, and the resolution of barking dog problems.

Staff held discussion with the Glendale Humane Society and San Gabriel Valley Humane Society, but they were not interested in submitting a proposal for animal control services because their existing shelter systems are already operating near full capacity. Glendale or San Gabriel Valley Humane Societies would need to expand their shelter space to comply with the required holding period for impounded animals that are from Pasadena. The expansion of their shelter space would not be feasible at this time because it would require capital improvement fund to purchase real property and the building of additional shelter space on the property.

Based on a review of each of these options, staff recommends continuing the City's contract with the Pasadena Humane Society as the most advantageous to the City. The Pasadena Humane Society has a long-standing history of providing a cost-effective and high quality animal and rabies control program to the City. Renewing the current contractual relationship will ensure that the City receives continuity of services for animal and Rabies control. In addition, the Humane Society agreed during the June 18, 2001, City Council meeting to assume the responsibility for enforcing the Animal Display Ordinance without additional cost to the City.

The term of the contract shall be for three years. The amount of the contract for the first year, beginning July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002, would be \$837,000. At the end of the first contract year and at each subsequent anniversary date, the total contract price would be adjusted by the change in the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside area for the latest available preceding 12-month period. The amount of this contract is a 20% increase over the FY 2001 contract.

The Pasadena Humane Society also provides animal control services to the cities of Arcadia, La Canada-Flintridge, San Marino, Sierra Madre, and South Pasadena. The contract amount for each city is based on several factors, which includes the varying level of service (patrols, complaint response, etc.) that each city has requested. The Humane Society is currently in negotiation with several of their contract cities and it is anticipated that each city's contract will also be increasing for FY 2002.

Contract City	FY 1998 Contract	FY 2001 Contract	Change
Arcadia	\$80,000	\$104,706	31%
La-Canada Flintridge	\$54,055	\$61,135	13%
Pasadena	\$443,710	\$694,000	56%
San Marino	NA	\$46,357	
Sierra Madre	\$15,594	\$19,980	28%
South Pasadena	\$53,055	\$87,260	64%

Staff completed a telephone survey of surrounding cities, similar to Pasadena, that contract their animal control services with a private entity. The result of this survey is presented in the table below and shows that the Pasadena Humane Society continues to be a competitively priced provider for animal control services among cities of similar size.

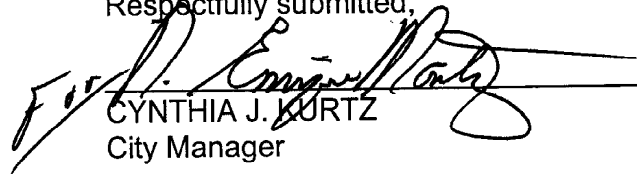
City	Provider	Population	FY 2001 Contract	Cost Per Capita
Burbank	Burbank Animal Control	100,316	\$762,000	\$7.62
Glendale	Glendale Humane Society	194,973	\$587,000	\$3.00
Pomona	Pomona Valley Humane Society	149,473	\$777,000	\$5.21
Pasadena	Pasadena Humane Society for Pasadena	133,936	\$837,000	\$6.24
Pasadena	Los Angeles County Animal Control for Pasadena	133,936	\$797,000	\$5.95

Staff recommends that the proposed contract be exempt from the vendor selection process of the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance, PMC 4.09, pursuant to PMC 4.09.060(C), contracts for which the City's best interests are served. Maintaining the current contractual relationship will ensure that the City receives continuity of services for animal and Rabies control by retaining the Pasadena Humane Society.

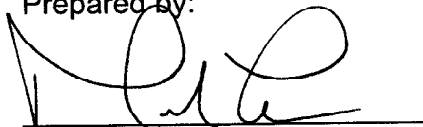
**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funds for the contract have been included in the Public Health Department's FY 2002 Environmental Health Division adopted budget, account # 562200.

Respectfully submitted,

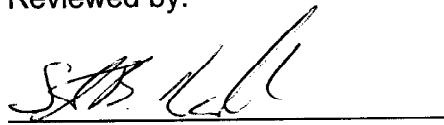
  
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