

LORIE TINFOW
City Manager

July 17, 2018

Honorable John B. Ellis
Solano County Hall of Justice, Dept. 23
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: Response to 2017-2018 Solano County Grand Jury Report, "Animal Care/Animal Control"

Dear Judge Ellis:

This letter shall serve as the City of Benicia's response in accordance with Penal Code section 933.05 to the Grand Jury report entitled "Animal Care/Animal Control" as approved by the Benicia City Council on July 17, 2018.

Finding 1

Members of Solano County Animal Control Authority (SACA) indicated concern with the contract and lack of cooperation from Humane Animal Services (HAS) in providing appropriate fiscal information.

Response to Finding 1

The City of Benicia is not a member of SACA and has no information on the level of cooperation from HAS.

Recommendation 1

SACA, the contracting party, review, renegotiate and rethink the existing contract, SACA send out requests for proposals to find an agency that provides appropriate fiscal information.

Response to Recommendation 1

The City of Benicia is not a member of SACA.

Finding 2

Licensing is the law, not a choice. All interviewed enforcement agencies admitted that implementing licensing laws is a low priority.

Response to Finding 2

The City of Benicia agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 2

Law Enforcement agencies review policies and ensure that pet owners are aware of and following the state, county and city regulations.

Response to Recommendation 2

The City of Benicia employs one full time Animal Control Officer who educates pet owners in the community on the state, county and city regulations and enforces those laws.

Finding 3

Animal Care/Animal Control services in Solano County are not consistent or easily accessed.

Response to Finding 3

The City of Benicia partially agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 3

The cities in Solano County develop a communication system that connects all responding agencies and allows citizens to access needed assistance with a single call

Response to Recommendation 3

The City of Benicia is willing to collaborate with all cities in Solano County and help to develop a better communication system. Benicia Police Chief Upson will discuss with the Solano County Law Enforcement Administrators Association (SCLEAA) ways the county and cities can better collaborate and communicate. We anticipate completing this within the next six months.

Finding 4

There is no effective program in Solano County to ensure animal license enforcement and compliance.

Response to Finding 4

The City of Benicia partially agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 4

The cities and the county collaborate to ensure animal license enforcement and compliance.

Response to Recommendation 4

The City of Benicia is willing to collaborate with all cities in Solano County to ensure license enforcement and compliance. The City believes in its current program and the Animal Control Officer works hard to insure compliance with licensing laws. The City will work to better collaborate with other Animal Control entities over the next six months.

Finding 5

Veterinarians are the first line of defense in addressing the health and safety of family pets, yet there is no effort to create a collaborative program to ensure that pets in Solano County are licensed.

Response to Finding 5

The City of Benicia partially agrees with this finding. Veterinarians are a significant part of the first line of defense in addressing the health and safety of family pets.

Recommendation 5

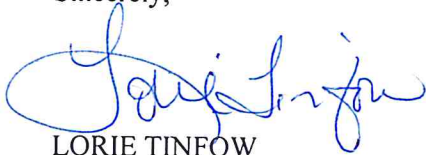
Solano Animal Control Authority (SACA) work with the Napa Solano County Veterinary Medical Association to create a program to increase the number of licensed animals in Solano County.

Response to Recommendation 4

The City of Benicia is not a member of SACA

Please contact me if you should have any further questions.

Sincerely,



LORIE TINFOW
City Manager

cc: Terry Riddle, 2017-2018 Solano County Grand Jury Foreperson
