



Office of the City Manager · 555 Santa Clara Street · Vallejo · CA · 94590 · 707.648.4576

July 23, 2018

**Sent via Email:** cdclower@solano.courts.ca.gov

Honorable John B. Ellis  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Solano County Superior Court  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**Re: 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report Entitled: Animal Care/Animal Control**

**Report Date: May 24, 2018**

Dear Judge Ellis,

This letter contains the City of Vallejo's response to the Solano County Grand Jury Report of May 24, 2018, regarding Animal Care/Animal Control.

City of Vallejo City Manager Office staff has reviewed the Grand Jury's recommendations and provided the following:

**Finding #1:** Members of Solano Animal Control Authority (SACA) indicated concern with the contract and lack of cooperation from Humane Animal Services (HAS) in providing appropriate fiscal information.

**Response:** Not applicable.

**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:** The recommendation is not applicable to the City of Vallejo, as the City is not a member agency 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:** Agree.

**Recommendation #2:** Law enforcement agencies review policies and ensure that pet owners are aware of and follow the state, county and city regulations.

**Response:** City staff will work contractors to expand education on the dog licensing law and consequences of not following the law.

**Finding #3:** Animal Care/Animal Control services in Solano County are not consistent or easily accessed.

**Response:** Partially agree.

**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:** The City of Vallejo has different contractors for some animal care and control services in comparison to other cities in Solano County. Contact information is available on the City's website for various services, a local shelter is available to residents, and animal control services are unique to Vallejo. The City of Vallejo can connect with Solano County Animal Care to research the ability to set-up a single communication system.

**Finding #4:** There is no effective program in Solano County to ensure animal license enforcement and compliance.

**Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation #4:** The cities and the county collaborate on a plan to address license enforcement and compliance.

**Response:** The City of Vallejo can connect with Solano County Animal Care and Sheriff's Animal Control to brainstorm a plan to address license enforcement and compliance.

**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:** Not applicable.

**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:** The recommendation is not applicable to the City of Vallejo, as the City is not a member agency of SACA.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Nyhoff", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Nyhoff  
City Manager

cc: Claudia Quintana, City Attorney  
Mayor & Members of the Vallejo City Council  
Joanna Altman, Assistant to the City Manager