



BRAD KILGER
City Manager

July 17, 2013

Paul Beeman
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
Hall of Justice
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: City of Benicia Response to Findings 3 and 4 and Recommendation 3 and 4 of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury Report Titled "Animal Care Services"

Dear Judge Beeman:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 933 (b) of the California Penal Code, the governing body of any public agency subject to the Grand Jury's review authority must respond to recommendations and findings pertaining to matters under their control within sixty (60) days of receipt of such report. Therefore, the purpose of this letter is to comply with the aforementioned law and to advise you that after review of the 2012-2013 Solano County Grand Jury Report, the City Council of the City of Benicia accepts the Report.

Finding 3 – Animal control functions in Solano County are fragmented and confusing to the public.

Recommendation 3 – The Solano County Sheriff's Office provides all animal control services for all cities and unincorporated areas of Solano County using funds generated from dog licensing and all funds currently being paid by the cities to private companies for existing animal control contracts.

City's Response: - The City disagrees. The City of Benicia has its own animal control officer and does not believe that its residents are confused about animal control functions. Animals rarely end up in another city. Having the temporary canine kennels in the City of Benicia allows residents to recover their animals easier than having to drive to Fairfield as proposed by the Grand Jury.

Finding 4 - City of Benicia Corporation Yard holding pens are inadequate for housing animals.

Recommendation 4 - Animals should not be housed at the Benicia Corporation Yard.


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City's Response: The City disagrees. In May 2013, the Benicia Police Department completed improvements to the Animal Control canine kennels located at the City of Benicia Corporation Yard. A new roof was installed over both kennels to provide additional cover during all types of weather. This roof is constructed of corrugated aluminum to deflect the wet weather. Under the corrugated aluminum there is approximately 1 ½ inches of insulation and an interior roof comprised of 3/4 inch plywood. There are two large turbine roof vents that allow for the circulation/elimination of hot air. Additionally, a new over-hang for shade was added on the west side of the kennels as this side receives the majority of sunlight throughout the day. Diamond shaped lattice/siding was also installed to allow more ventilation and to enhance keeping the kennels protected from elements, specifically rain being blown in by heavy winds. Finally, an area was constructed to store food for the dogs under the over-hang and it too is protected from the elements.

Each kennel has a dedicated watering system to ensure the dogs always have water. Both kennels have dog houses elevated off the concrete floor and each dog house has clean blankets/bedding.

This response was drafted by City Staff and Approved by the City Council at their meeting on July 16, 2013. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brad Kilger
City Manager

cc: City Council
City Attorney
Police Chief
Morland McManigal, Foreman, 2012-2013 Solano County Grand Jury