



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



DEPARTMENT: Police

MEETING DATE: May 1, 2007

PREPARED BY: Roger W. Johnson, Chief of Police

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-3

TITLE: Proposal for the Monrovia Police Department to Provide Animal Control Services for the City of Monrovia

OBJECTIVE: This report provides information and a recommendation for the Monrovia Police Department to provide animal control services for the community, and to conclude the contract with the San Gabriel Valley Animal Control Authority for these services.

BACKGROUND: The San Gabriel Valley Animal Control Authority Administrative Committee held its most recent meeting on March 13, 2007. At the meeting, Director John Coleman of the San Gabriel Valley Humane Society and Executive Director Michael Burns of the San Gabriel Valley Animal Control Authority indicated that there would be a need to significantly increase fees to the participating cities if they were to remain in business. The Financial Officer for the SGVACA indicated that the increased cost to Monrovia for the next fiscal year would be \$43,000.

Based on the information obtained during the Administrative Committee Meeting, the Police Department set out to evaluate the various options available for animal control services in the San Gabriel Valley. Unfortunately, the options for animal control services for Monrovia are severely limited. There are not many organizations providing for the care and control of animals in our geographic area. However, following are the animal control organizations in our area and their availability for providing services to Monrovia.

Pasadena Humane Society

Over the years, a number of community members have suggested that Pasadena Humane Society would be a preferred choice for animal control services. Pasadena Humane reported they are at their capacity and unable to provide either sheltering or patrol services for Monrovia in the foreseeable future.

Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control (LACDACC)

LA County Animal Control, located in the City of Baldwin Park, is the closest provider of animal control services to Monrovia. They can provide patrol, sheltering, and licensing services at a cost of approximately \$184,000 a year with some initial start-up costs. Based on our experiences with LA County Animal Control, we are not convinced they could provide the level of service that we would desire in Monrovia. Additionally, their facility is located in a blighted commercial area in Baldwin Park. The location would not be a desirable place for our community members to go when picking up animals or seeking pet adoptions.

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Inland Valley Humane Society

Inland Valley Humane is the next closest animal control service provider to Monrovia. They indicate that Monrovia exceeds their practical geographic span of control and efficiency for patrol services. However, they indicated they would be able to provide sheltering service for Monrovia at an approximate cost of \$43,000 annually, which would include veterinary costs during normal business hours. An inspection of the location found a very clean and well run animal sheltering facility. They are rated as good in their adoption rate, and in customer service.

Monrovia Police Department

At this time, it appears that a more effective option for animal control field services (other than with San Gabriel Valley Humane) would rest with Monrovia itself. Prior to the formation of the SGVACA, Monrovia provided its own animal control services using two animal control officers working out of the Police Department. The City of Monrovia responded to animal related calls, provided dog licensing services, and contracted for sheltering services with SGV Humane. It appears it may be time to once again take on this service ourselves, and at the same time, increase the level of service provided to our customers.

To effectively provide animal control services to Monrovia would require two full-time animal control officers working a daytime 4/10 work schedule from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This configuration would provide our community with seven day per week coverage during daytime hours. Except for situations where multiple animal control calls are pending at the same time (which is rare) or the animal control officer is out of town driving to the shelter, the average response times for calls for service would be approximately ten minutes. After-hours calls that are of a serious or priority nature would be handled by an on-call officer on overtime.

Unquestionably, the biggest benefit to having our own animal control program would be the improvement in customer service. With calls for service coming directly to the Police Department, and our animal control officers reporting to and being trained and supervised by our staff, animal control services would be on par with the other Department services.

San Gabriel Valley Humane Society currently provides all of our dog licensing services, which includes canvassing neighborhoods. We currently share half of our dog licensing revenues with San Gabriel Valley Humane Society as part of our contract. Licensing duties, including canvassing of neighborhoods, could be done by our animal control officers and some of our volunteer staff.

FISCAL IMPACT: The average cost of animal control services for the last three years provided by San Gabriel Valley Humane was \$158,470. During that same period of time, the average revenue retained by Monrovia was \$55,342. The cost to the general fund for animal control services was on the average \$103,128. With the proposed increase, Monrovia will have an additional \$43,000 added to our annual animal control service costs, which will result in an actual cost to the City of \$146,128. If Monrovia chooses to provide the service themselves, the cost to the general fund annually would be approximately \$86,000, when taking into account the total cost of the program and Monrovia's retention of all of their revenues for dog licensing. **This would result in a savings to the City of \$60,128.**

	SGV SOCIETY (3 Year Average)	HUMANE MONROVIA POLICE (Proposed)
Service Costs	\$158,470	\$201,000
Proposed Increase	\$43,000	n/a
Licensing Revenue	\$55,342	\$115,000
Actual Costs	\$146,128	\$86,000

The following table shows the annual cost estimate, by item, associated with operating our own animal control services. The anticipated total cost to provide these services for fiscal year 2007-08 would be \$201,000. By retaining all of Monrovia's dog license revenues, the actual cost from general fund monies would be \$86,000.

COST ANALYSIS FOR MONROVIA BASED ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES	
Two Full-time Animal Control Officers	\$112,000
Overtime	\$12,000
Printing	\$2,500
Dog Licensing Tags	\$1,000
Postage	\$2,000
Shelter Contract	\$43,000
Emergency Veterinarian Fees	\$1,000
Fuel and Maintenance of Animal Control Truck	\$12,000
Animal Control Truck Replacement I/S Fund	\$8,000
Training	\$2,500
Uniform Costs	\$2,000
Miscellaneous Equipment and Maintenance	\$3,000
TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS	\$201,000

A move from using SGV Humane as our provider of animal control services will require some start up costs, such as, an animal control truck, kennels, and other necessary equipment. The following table shows the anticipated start up costs of \$70,000 if Monrovia were to provide its own services for animal control.

ANIMAL CONTROL START UP COSTS	
Animal Control Truck	\$50,000
Dog Licensing Software, Computer, Printing and Supplies	\$9,000
Animal Control Officer Training	\$4,000
Office Equipment for Animal Control	\$2,000
Kennels and Equipment for Controlling Animals	\$4,000
Uniforms	\$1,000
TOTAL START UP COSTS	\$70,000

RECOMMENDATION: The Police Department recommends that Council approve the implementation of its new Animal Control Program.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED: Should the City Council concur with the recommendation, the appropriate action would be:

“A motion to approve the new Animal Control Program provided by the Police Department at an annual cost to the City’s General Fund of \$86,000, and also approve the one-time expenditure of \$70,000 for start up costs associated with the program.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger W. Johnson
Chief of Police