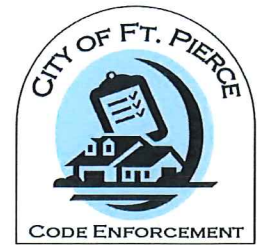




CITY OF FORT PIERCE

COMMUNITY RESPONSE DIVISIONS
MARGARET M. ARRAIZ, CODE COMPLIANCE MANAGER

Protecting the health, safety and welfare of our community



May 1, 2016

The Humane Society Board of Directors
PO Box 14199
Fort Pierce, FL 34979

Re: FY 2017 Contract Negotiations

Dear Sirs:

The City of Fort Pierce has received and reviewed your request for an increase in costs for the upcoming fiscal year. With respect, we deny the request for a \$25,000 “facility fee” and will not negotiate this item. We also reject the request for a 32% increase to a fee of \$165.00 per animal.

The City of Fort Pierce is responsible for covering the costs to care for animals it impounds for an average of five (5) days, taking into consideration the number of owner turn-in’s combined with the number of animals deemed not adoptable that are subsequently terminated. Care of the animals beyond the five days is a cost to be borne by the Humane Society through adoption fees and/or other funding efforts.

Due to the drastic increase requested, the City reached out to the other local jurisdictions and each jurisdiction requested a breakdown of the actual costs to process and care for each animal. In response, a “Cost Per Animal Per Day” statement was provided that simply detailed the total shelter operating expenses less shelter operating income to determine what it costs to operate the shelter for a day and divided that by the number of adoptable animals. It in no way actually details what it costs to care for an animal such as food and medical expenses.

Please note in the “Cost Per Animal Per Day” statement provided, the Humane Society only reports enough income to cover 15% of its expenses and relies upon the local tax payers to cover the remaining deficit.

As the Humane Society failed to provide the actual costs as requested, the City of Fort Pierce assessed the financial information provided and determined a reasonable cost for care for an animal for five days. The City is offering to pay \$110 per animal. The cost covers \$25 for intake and first day and \$15 for four additional days for a total of \$85.00 to care for the animal. There is an additional \$25.00 per animal to go towards the operations of the shelter.

Additionally, during our discussions with St. Lucie County and Port St. Lucie, it was discovered that all three jurisdictions were charged different fees and had different services provided. We are requesting that we be provided the same services for the same cost. The following conditions are to be included in the new contract. Reference to the existing contract in which the item is already covered is listed.

- Kitten litters (ref. COFP & PSL) and puppy litters (ref. PSL) (8 weeks of age and under) with their dam will be considered a single animal.
- Necessary medical attention will be provided to all impounds including the costs associated with the Animal Emergency Center (ref. SLC).
- Decapitations required by the Health Department for rabies investigations will be included (ref. SLC and PSL).
- Daily fees shall be established for long term impounds due to cruelty investigations (ref. COFP).
- Anonymous drops at the shelter are the responsibility of the Humane Society and will not be included in our monthly count (ref. COFP).
- Reduced rate for wildlife and feral cats (ref. SLC and PSL).
- Animals born in the shelter are the responsibility of the Humane Society and will not be included in our monthly count.
- Cats brought to the shelter as part of the TNR project, if approved by the Florida Animal Friend Grant, will not be included in our monthly count.

The number of impounds from the City of Fort Pierce has dropped quite significantly over the past few years due to the strength of various programs we have implemented and we anticipated seeing costs go down in relation to that drop instead of the increase your organization has requested. We strongly encourage the Humane Society to increase its fund raising efforts or take the necessary steps to streamline their operations to work within their current financial conditions.

Thank you for the care and concern that your organization provides to the residents and the animals of the City of Fort Pierce. We anticipate further discussion on this topic and look forward to your response.

Best Regards,



Margaret M. Arraiz
Code Compliance Manager