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**JUN 04 2018**

**THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE  
ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION**

adopt 🐾 foster 🐾 volunteer

June 4, 2018

To Honorable Mayor and Commissioners:

Because your City Manager, Mr. Mimms, would not meet with us we are here tonight.

The City's contract with the Humane Society is up for renewal. After years of subsidizing 30-48% of the per animal costs, the Humane Society has no viable alternative but to reduce the gap between the costs of housing the animals taken in and the amounts paid by the City. Unlike you we do not have a general or reserve fund or a tax base to draw upon. On behalf of the animals, we are requesting an additional \$50,000. or a total base contract cost of \$180,000.

At the present time the per animal cost to the Humane Society is approximately \$250. The City pays the Humane Society \$130. That leaves a deficit of \$120. \$180,000. still leaves a deficit but it helps narrow that deficit from 48% to 28%. The Humane Society has funded a significant portion of the City's costs for too long. We have done what we could to reduce costs, including reducing salaries, hours and personnel. We can't cut anymore. While our employees have taken salary cuts, your employees have received at least 17% increases over a 7 year period.

Your code compliance manager makes triple what our shelter manager makes. Your employees' benefits far exceed those we offer ours. We ask that you pay your fair share. While we would like to ask for 100% of our costs, we know that will not happen. However, it is not unreasonable for you to pay 72% of our costs of caring for your animals.

P.O. Box 14199, Fort Pierce, FL 34949 \* PH: 772.672.8238 \* Fax: 772.672.8267

Shelter Locations: 100 Savannah Rd., Fort Pierce, 8890 Glades Cut-Off Rd., Port St. Lucie, FL

Thrift Store & Donation Center: 1001 W. Midway Rd., Fort Pierce

Finally, let me dispel some myths. While the Humane Society leases the building at Savannah Road for \$1 per year, it is responsible for all maintenance on that building and facility. On a 70 year old building those costs are not insignificant. The Humane Society also pays utilities and insurance on that building. Thus, if anything it is a wash. We care for your building as well as your animals. As for the other disingenuous argument put forth by your negotiator, namely the Glades shelter increases the per animal costs. The Humane Society did not include the mortgage in calculating the per animal cost. Thus, that argument fails.

Please hear the animals who depend upon you and us to plead their case. We and the animals we care for thank you for your consideration.