



THE SUNRISE CITY

FORT PIERCE

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Florida

TO : Nicholas Mimms, City Manager

FROM : Peggy Arraiz, Code Compliance Manager

SUBJECT : Humane Society Update

DATE : January 22, 2019

In October, when the City Commission met with the Humane Society, in addition to changing the contract to month-to-month payments, the Commission wanted to see a unified contract and to be more involved in the business decisions of the Humane Society. Specifically, several Commissioners expressed an interest in having a city representative on the Board of Directors.

Since that time, Janey Vanderhorst and I have participated in several meetings with representatives of the three local jurisdictions and Humane Society. Heather Young, Assistant Attorney for St. Lucie County, indicated that it was not appropriate for a city / county representative to sit on the Board of Directors and opined that a steering or operational committee that made recommendations to the Board of Directors was the most appropriate solution. Acting City Attorney Ben Bryan deferred to the County Attorney in this matter.

To date, the formation of this committee has been the only item addressed. This committee would be tasked with providing suggestions and feedback to the Humane Society Board of Directors to help them establish a better business plan, help them develop a path to sustainability, help them meet their mission statement and also provide a method of open communication between the jurisdictions and the Board of Directors.

Despite multiple meetings and emails, the Humane Society Board of Directors has opposed all suggestions and efforts submitted by the local jurisdictions to form this committee and their proposed committee in no way meets the Cities' and County's intent and goals. This in turn has resulted in severe deterioration of communication and cooperation between the Humane Society and the jurisdictions.

We will continue to work with our follow counter parts to find an effective solution to this matter; however, I recommend direct communication between yourself and the County Administrator to discuss possible alternatives should our efforts fail.