



June 18, 2019

Jeffrey Bremer, Deputy County Administrator  
[BremerJ@stlucieco.org](mailto:BremerJ@stlucieco.org)  
John Bolduc, Chief of Police, City of Port St. Lucie  
[JBolduc@cityofpsl.com](mailto:JBolduc@cityofpsl.com)  
Peggy Arraiz, Code Compliance Manager  
[parraiz@city-ftpierce.com](mailto:parraiz@city-ftpierce.com)  
Heather Young, Assistant County Attorney  
[youngh@stlucieco.org](mailto:youngh@stlucieco.org)

Re: Moving Forward

Dear Fellow Animal Welfare Leaders:

In an effort to move the contract renewal process forward the Board of Directors of the Second Chance Animal Shelters has reviewed the three individual jurisdictional contracts and has identified contractual provisions which are not feasible or appropriate and thus should not be incorporated in any unified contract. We have not recited the pro forma paragraphs which should be included in a global agreement which, for the most part, should not be a matter of disagreement. Data that will assist each jurisdiction in determining its appropriate level of funding is also provided.

- References in the current county contract to the USDA should not be incorporated in any contract. Appropriate standards are contained in the Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters, the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, 2010.
- Rabies testing (decapitation), if agreed to, should be at a mutually determined level of additional compensation.

- Any contract should include reciprocal notice rights regarding termination. Currently there are variations in and among the three contracts. For example, if the jurisdictions are allowed 60 days to give notice of termination, the Second Chance Animal Shelters should also be allowed 60 days to give notice of termination.
- Late fees should be included and imposed if the jurisdictions are delinquent in submitting required payments. Currently although language regarding payment is mandatory there is no remedy for delinquent payments.
- The Second Chance Animal Shelters request quarterly payments rather than monthly payments.

We have reached out to Carrie Ducote of Best Friends to get a benchmark for funding. She has advised us that her team provided information that suggests comparable contracts for **sheltering only** are around \$3.00 per resident. Based upon population data I gleaned from the Internet for the year 2017, the entire county has a population of 313,508. Port St. Lucie comprises about 190,000 residents (60%) and Fort Pierce about 46,000 (15%). I could not get a number the unincorporated county but subtracting the cities from the total count population yields 77,508 (25%).

Based upon comparable contracts for sheltering only, the jurisdictions **should** be paying at least \$940,000 for sheltering services as of 2017. The \$3.00 per resident number provided by Best Friends does not account for medical needs. *Thus, any compensation for services additional to sheltering, such as veterinary, should be appropriately compensated.* Veterinary costs (excluding techs) and medication expenses exceed \$265,000 annually.

Currently the City of Port St. Lucie has over 60% of the population and contributes less than 30% of the total monies currently received from the three jurisdictions. As noted, the total monies received are woefully deficient from the norm. The population numbers are now about 5% higher given the annual population growth

is about 2.43% annually. The appropriate compensation should also reflect additional services provided beyond sheltering.

It should be noted that although Fort Pierce has only 15% of the residents it accounts for about 28% of the annual intake of animals. While the unincorporated county represents 25% of the population, it accounts for 35% of the animal intake. The breakdown for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 the intake breakdown was as follows:

City of Fort Pierce 1,294 (28%)

St. Lucie County 1,626 (35%)

City of PSL 1,722 (37%)

4,642

The jurisdictions can review the data and determine what proportionate share each determines is fair and reasonable. It should be noted that Martin County has a population about half of St. Lucie County yet contributed over \$732,000 in Fiscal Year 2017-18 as compensation for fewer animals sheltered.

We welcome the opportunity to continue the dialogue and finalize a unified contract which each of you has indicated is preferable to three separate contracts.

Sincerely,



Mary Jean Navaretta, Chairman and Director  
Second Chance Animal Shelters

Cc: Board of Directors, Second Chance Animal Shelters  
David Robertson, Executive Director