



PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

RECORD OF ACTION FOR
February 28, 2022

Supervisor Federal D. Glover, Chair
Supervisor Candace Andersen, Vice Chair

Present: Federal D. Glover, Chair
Candace Andersen, Vice Chair

Staff Paul Reyes, Senior Deputy County Administrator

Present:

1. Introductions

Convene - 10:30 am

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).

Public comment was received, including 2 emails that have been attached.

3. APPROVE Record of Action from the December 16, 2021 meeting.

Approved as presented.

AYE: Chair Federal D. Glover
Vice Chair Candace Andersen

4. 1. CONSIDER interviewing applicants for a seat on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) reserved for one (1) At-Large Representative seat and one (1) Community Based Organization Representative seat on the JJCC.

2. RECOMMEND candidate for the vacant seat identified above to the Board of Supervisors for appointment consideration.

All three applicants were interviewed, the Committee recommended Julius Van Hook to the CBO representative seat and Neil Stratton to the at-large representative seat on the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

AYE: Chair Federal D. Glover
Vice Chair Candace Andersen

5. RECEIVE a report from the W. Haywood Burns Institute on the progress and activities of the County's Racial Justice Oversight Body in 2021, and provide direction to staff as needed.

Informational item only, no action taken. Staff was directed to:

1. Explore transitioning administrative functions of the Racial Justice Oversight Body (RJOB), such as data collection and meeting facilitation, from the Office of Reentry and Justice (ORJ) to another department, such as CAO, and return to the PPC.

2. Provide the full Board of Supervisors with an update on the RJOB.

3. Return to PPC with a follow up on the authority of the Board of Supervisors in regards to Sheriff oversight.

4. Work with ORJ on RJOB membership issues and refer to the Internal Operations Committee if necessary.

6. 1. REVIEW and APPROVE the fiscal year 2022/23 AB 109 budget proposal, as recommended by the Community Corrections Partnership - Executive Committee.
2. PROVIDE direction to staff.

Approved as presented, with staff being directed to return to the committee with data on Stand Together Contra Costa.

AYE: Chair Federal D. Glover

Vice Chair Candace Andersen

7. PROVIDE direction to staff regarding the recruitment process to immediately fill (2) vacant Community-based Representative Seats 8 and 9 of the Racial Justice Oversight Body.

PROVIDE direction to staff regarding a recruitment process for Fall 2022 to fill all (9) Community-based Representative Seats of the Racial Justice Oversight Body scheduled to expire on December 31st, 2022.

The committee approved a 3-week recruitment process and directed staff to review the RJOB membership composition prior to conducting the recruitment for the community representative seats that would be terming on December 31, 2022.

AYE: Chair Federal D. Glover

Vice Chair Candace Andersen

8. 1. APPROVE the proposed 2022 Public Protection Committee meeting schedule and workplan;
2. PROVIDE direction to staff as appropriate.

The workplan was approved with the addition of providing the committee with an update on Animal Services.

AYE: Chair Federal D. Glover

Vice Chair Candace Andersen

9. The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 28, 2022 at 10:30 am.

10. Adjourn

Convene - 12:30 pm

For Additional Information Contact:

Paul Reyes, Committee Staff
Phone (925) 335-1096, Fax (925) 646-1353
paul.reyes@cao.cccounty.us

From: [Laureen Lober](#)
To: [Paul Reyes](#)
Subject: PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, AGENDA
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 1:10:52 AM

Please include my letter in the February, 2022, Agenda, Item 2, Public Comments.

RE: CONTRA COSTA ANIMAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS.
ANIMAL WELFARE. PET OVERPOPULATION. REDUCED AND CLOSED SERVICES
AT CCAS.

Dear Supervisors Glover, Chair and Candice Anderson, Vice Chair,

I have been a cat and dog rescue volunteer in Contra Costa County for over 20 years. Through my rescue work with various non-profit rescue groups, we have helped countless animals find forever homes and reducing the pet overpopulation.

There are animal welfare issues that are affecting public health and safety. CCAS has temporarily closed or reduced vital community based services: spay/neuter and vaccination clinics are temporarily closed; The TNR (Trap/Neuter/Return) program for community cats, has a 60-day waitlist with 24 appointments per week, which is grievously inadequate to meet the population explosion. The clinic was closed frequently last year due to staff shortages. The Return to Field (RTF) program is functioning at a low level and is for sick or injured cats. Restoring this program to include healthy cats would significantly reduce the population growth. The Working Cat Program needs improvement.

The result of this Shelter situation is numerous litters of kittens and puppies being born. Pet abandonment has increased and cats and dogs aren't getting the required vaccinations, including rabies, which is mandated and also deadly to pets and humans. This means sick and unhealthy pets that are susceptible to diseases that are spread between their species. Some illnesses like URI, which is treatable with antibiotics, can cause pneumonia and become fatal. Severe eye infections can cause blindness and sometimes enucleation (eye removal). Feline vaccinations prevent these deadly, contagious diseases: Feline rhinotracheitis virus, feline calicivirus, and feline panleukopenia.

Private vets are charging high rates for S/N (\$400-\$800) and vaccinations are expensive. Low income people and families struggling to pay their bills, rely on Animal Services. I'm a trapper, which is very labor intensive, time consuming and challenging with my medical and chronic pain issues. I cannot afford to feed and care for cats that are continually being dumped here. I cannot afford a private vet or Animal Fix Clinic fees. These are not my pets! Berkeley and Oakland sponsor their residents at AFC, why can't CCAS? The Pinole Shelter closure has caused more dogs and cats to be abandoned.

Local colony caregivers have reported fatal poisoning of cats and kittens. This often happens when the number of cats becomes a nuisance to some ruthless people. Non-profit rescue groups have been burdened with too much responsibility to meet the pet population growth demands. Other counties have come to our rescue at times and helped with vetting, sheltering and adoptions. It's disgraceful and inexcusable that animals are not a priority in Contra Costa County.

Animal Services did meet the Measure X definitions and didn't receive any funding because the CCAS's proposal was never submitted. This is an injustice to the taxpayers who voted for this tax and a tragedy to our beloved pets and community cats. Animals are suffering and paying the price.

Besides the domesticated pet issues, there is another serious problem affecting our wildlife. In October 2020, Lindsay Wildlife's website advised the public that due to staffing and budgeting issues, Contra Costa Animal Services, were no longer responding to any calls about injured, sick or trapped wildlife. They are instead referring callers to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This is astounding due to the fact that since 2011, the CDFW, does not have the manpower to respond to most injured wild animal calls. To make matters worse, the CDFW refers callers to CCAS, who in turn refers them to CDFW. This would be a comedy of errors if it weren't for the devastating and needless suffering of animals that are sick or injured.

This means an injured wild animal may be left in the road for hours, with no help, unless a good samaritan happens by and is able to help. If the species is native to California, then Lindsay Wildlife may help, but they do not provide transportation.

Citizens, rescue groups and volunteers deserve an answer as to why millions of dollars from CCAS's annual budget was routinely put back into the general fund instead of going toward services and programs benefiting animals and the community.

Animal welfare and public health is in jeopardy. This is a crisis situation. Ignoring it or waiting until next year will only exacerbate this dire situation. As one of my heroes, Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "The time is always right to do what is right".

Sincerely,

Laureen Lober

Animal rights' advocate and rescue volunteer

From: [Erica Fraga](#)
To: [Paul Reyes](#)
Subject: FEBRUARY 28, 2022, AGENDA: LETTER FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, ITEM 2
Date: Sunday, February 27, 2022 7:18:09 PM

Good morning Board of Supervisors and staff,

My name is Erica Fraga and I am a taxpaying resident in San Pablo. I am writing on behalf of the lack of services for lost, abandoned, and/or stray animals in my community. With the closure of the Pinole shelter in Sept 2020, the pandemic, and the massive cuts done at Contra Costa Animal Services, we residents are facing a dire situation with the cat and dog population.

The Contra Costa Animal Services low cost spay and neuter clinic and low cost vaccine clinic was suspended some time ago, which has directly lead to an increase in the community cat population, as well as backyard breeding of dogs.

I have been an animal advocate and community cat feeder, trapper, and caretaker for decades. The amount of stray cats I come across in my own neighborhood has been increasing, while the ability to take them for spay/neuter and vaccines has been decreasing. Most of the cats I have come across are “semi-feral” which means they most likely were abandoned by a human and forced to fend for themselves on the streets. The average cost to spay/neuter an animal is between \$300-\$800 private vets. Having a low cost, and or “free” option makes all the difference, as we are all recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Animals are silent victims in this game of life. No one is asked to be born on the streets, or wants to be raised on them, assuming they survive racoons, coyotes, and cars.

Please expedite funding for CCAS, so more staffing can be hired and all low cost public services be resurrected.

Best,

Erica Fraga