

MINUTES
City of Los Angeles
BOARD OF ANIMAL REGULATION

March 1, 1999, 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Animal Regulation Commissioners convened in regular session on Monday, March 1, 1999, at 419 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90013.

Call to Order/Roll

The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m. President Afriat apologized for the late start due to the length of the Administrative Hearings.

Commission Members Present: President Afriat and Commissioners Barrett and Jackson

Commissioner Avila was absent, and the Mayor's Office has not designated a Commissioner to fill the position vacated by Commissioner Hunter.

Staff Members Present: Dan C. Knapp, Linda Gordon, Dr. Dena Mangiamele, Bob Peña, Dave Diliberto, Renée Quimby, and Laurel Broyles

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Barrett and second of Commissioner Jackson, the Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 1999, were approved without objection (3 Ayes).

Old Business

- A. Location and Date of Commission Retreat. President Afriat indicated that even though the Grand Jury supported a Commission Retreat, he and others on the Board wish to wait until a fifth Commissioner is appointed by the Mayor's Office. The item was removed from the calendar by motion of Commissioner Jackson and second of Commissioner Barrett (3 Ayes).
- B. Year 2000 Budget Update. President Afriat indicated that due to the importance of this item, it should be presented at the Eighth Council District meeting scheduled for March 22. By motion of Commissioner Barrett, second by Commissioner Jackson, the item will be continued to March 22 by order of the President.

New Business

- A. Policy, Procedure, and Ordinance Amendment Implementation of SB 1785. Mr. Knapp presented his report to the Commission and explained that Policy and Procedures and Administrative and Municipal Codes are being reviewed to bring the Department into compliance with SB 1785. He discussed, in detail, the recommended changes included in the report.

Mr. Afriat thanked Mr. Knapp and staff for a thorough report. He expounded that adoption of this report would mean immediate changes to Department Policy and Procedure, and Code changes would be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for action. Commissioner Barrett moved that Commission approve; Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. (Commissioners Barrett and Jackson and President Afriat—3 Ayes)

- B. Amendment Section 53.63 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code regarding Barking Dogs. Ms. Gordon presented the report recommending changes to the Barking Dog Ordinance that was developed with the assistance of a work group organized by Councilmember Feuer of Council District Five. Included in the report is a Motion that will be presented by Councilmember Feuer to amend Section 53.63 and provide for criminal penalties for barking dog noise nuisance. Following discussion, Commissioner Barrett moved that the Amendment be approved with the recommendation to City Council to expand the ordinance to include all animal noise and the hours should be clarified by the existing City noise ordinance, which governs the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. (Commissioner Barrett and Jackson and President Afriat—3 Ayes)

Public Comments

Earlier in the meeting, President Afriat announced that anyone wishing to comment on agenda items or to address the Board during the Public Comment section should complete a speaker card and provide it to Commission staff. No speaker cards were collected for this Commission meeting.

General Manager's Report

Mr. Knapp thanked staff for their assistance to the Commission at this meeting and acknowledged senior staff members in attendance.

Mr. Knapp discussed vacancies of key staff and announced that the recruitment process for a new Assistant General Manager is proceeding, and the Board will be updated during the process. Volunteer Coordinator interviews should be arranged this next week. Also, the Management Analyst II position should be filled early this week.

Mr. Knapp reported on the South Central Facility construction project and announced that construction is on schedule. The art that will be placed on the building will be reviewed at a meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on March 15, hosted by Eighth District Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Public Arts Division of the Cultural Affairs Department, and the Department.

The March 29 Community Meeting to discuss Department compliance with SB 1785, scheduled to be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center Theater, has been postponed at the request of the Mayor's Office.

Mr. Knapp stated he has been invited to speak before the Public Safety Committee on March 29 regarding the Special Enforcement Unit. He will provide them an update as to the history, current status of the problem in Los Angeles, staffing, current funding, other resources, strategies, and the Department's proposed program for next year. Mr. Knapp stated that this

invitation is in response to several incidents, and we are grieving with the parents who lost their 14-month-old child to the family pit bull. Mr. Knapp concluded his report. There were no further comments or discussion.

Items not on the Agenda

Commissioner Barrett stated she has been asked to go to Sacramento tomorrow to testify on the Hertzberg Bill, the first of two bills on dangerous dogs. She indicated that it is important to note that in the last ten days a little girl was hurt very badly in Long Beach, two families were attacked in Granada Hills, and the tragedy of last night occurred. She stated that these incidents, which catch the attention of the news media, do not remotely picture what is happening in the City, and she is hopeful that this bill will be able to deal with this very serious issue.

Commissioner Barrett inquired as to the status of the spay/neuter license differential ordinance. Mr. Knapp stated that this is a Department priority, and the license proposal should be moved through the Mayor's Office later this month and arrive before City Council in early April.

Mr. Afriat reminded the Commission and public that the Commission will not be meeting in two weeks as regularly scheduled. The next meeting will be held at the Council District Eight Constituent Service Center, 8475 Vermont Avenue at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 22.

Mr. Afriat thanked staff for the excellent service received at today's commission meeting. He also thanked senior staff, commenting that it is remarkable how well the Department is being run with the shortages in senior staffing.

Upon motion by Commissioner Barrett, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

March 22, 1999

ATTEST

Steve Afriat

PRESIDENT

Laurel L. Broyles
COMMISSION SECRETARY