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2 The following are summary minutes for the meeting of the **City of Las Cruces - Animal Care**
3 **Task Force** for October 25, 2019 at 2:30 p.m., at the City of Las Cruces, City Hall, Conference
4 Room 2007-A, 700 North Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

5
6 **Members Present:**

- 7 Kasandra Gandara, City Councilor Dist. 1/ ASCMV Board Chair
- 8 David Dollahon, Assistant City Manager for Operations
- 9 Yvonne Flores, City Councilor Dist. 6
- 10 Gino Jimenez, City ACO Supervisor
- 11 Mary Lou Ward, Dona Ana County ACO Chief
- 12 Clint Thacker, ASCMV Executive Director
- 13 Marcy Driggers, City Attorney's Office
- 14 Rick Hahn, Coalition for Pets and People
- 15 Athena Huckaby, Cat Colony Manager
- 16 Frank Bryce, Human Society of Southern NM
- 17 Susan Krueger, Animal Care Advocate
- 18 Gina Roberts, Dona Ana County ACO Case Worker
- 19 Geri Wheelis, Boarding Director for Calista Animal Hospital

20
21 **Others Present:**

- 22 David Aguayo, City of Las Cruces Codes/Animal Control
- 23 Jo Ruprecht, Citizen
- 24 Marcy Scott, Citizen

25
26 **Call to order** – 2:37 p.m.

27
28 **Approval of Minutes:** Councillor Gandara moved; David Aguayo seconded to approve the
29 minutes for September 27, 2019. Motion passed.

30
31 **Discussion Items:** The Task Force discussed community cats and cat colonies. David
32 Dollahon brought up the current ordinance that came about in 2014 related to feral cat
33 colonies. It was put in place for people to do a portion of TNR essentially without the release
34 part. So people could have either an enclosed cat colony with feral cats or they could have
35 an unenclosed feral cat colony but the whole intent behind the ordinance was that you
36 would trap the animal, neuter or spay the animal, that animal would be known to somebody
37 but would not necessarily be owned by someone.

38
39 Gino Jimenez said that was correct. And that was because in the last part of the ordinance it
40 had that sunset clause so that we could collect that data and bring it back to council so that
41 they could determine in the next revision whether feral cat colonies were going to continue
42 or it didn't work so let's do away with that.

43
44 Athena Huckaby gave a short presentation regarding TNR followed by Marcy Scott giving a
45 presentation about feral cats and bird advocates. Ms. Scott did mention she was a cat lover
46 way before she became a bird lover.

1 Ms. Scott mentioned that Dr. Gary Roemer, a professor at NMSU, had volunteered his
2 graduate students to do a 5-year study of how many feral cats were in the county and
3 people for whatever reason did not go for that.

4
5 David Dollahon said the biggest benefit of TNR is the neuter because you're not
6 proliferating more cats. I think that's our biggest issue. The return is problematic in part to
7 the community for all the reasons that we've discussed today. People don't want them there.
8 The number of people who complain about the mess in their yard, not even the fact of the
9 birds, the nuisance value of them.

10
11 Gino Jimenez asked, how do community cats benefit the community? The community, city
12 and county, are providing funding to the shelter and because of that, spay and neutering,
13 the euthanasia rate goes down, I get that, however that TNR cat that was just creating a
14 nuisance, how does that benefit the community.

15
16 David Dollahon said he thinks the benefit to the community is the overall reduction to the pet
17 population.

18
19 Mary Lou Ward said she would like to see the cost per feral cat that has cost the city or the
20 county per feral cat. Because of the time of the officer going to pick it up, impound it at the
21 shelter, if it gets returned, pick it up again, back and forth and what the shelter is doing to
22 put into that cat, cleaning up the cage, fixing it, microchipping it, all of that. What is the cost
23 for one cat?

24
25 Rick Hahn said on the shelter report on the last page it said \$160 per animal based on the
26 shelters budget. That wasn't including animal control.

27
28 David Dollahon asked, what if we had a voucher program that the voucher allowed them to
29 go anywhere to their animal spayed or neutered?

30
31 Clint Thacker said we'd get a lot more compliance.

32
33 Mary Lou Ward said you would have the problem that SNAP is having right now because of
34 the amount of veterinary facilities that will perform those surgeries and take in those
35 vouchers because there's only so many that do it for SNAP right now. As it is, we're going
36 to be running out of vets because we are inundating them with so many surgeries.

37
38 David Aguayo asked, why not pay people in the form of gift cards to get their pets spayed or
39 neutered?

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41 The Task Force agreed that would probably help.

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43 Our next meeting will be November 8 at 2:30 p.m.

44
45 **Adjourn** – 4:00 p.m.

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48 _____
49 Chair

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51 Approved: _____