September 4, 2015

The Honorable Rise Jones Pichon
Presiding Judge
Santa Clara County Superior Court
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Grand Jury Report: Santa Clara County Animal Control Officers and Certification

Dear Judge Pichon:

At the August 25, 2015 meeting of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors (Item No. 28), the Board adopted the response from the County Administration to the Final Grand Jury Report and recommendations relating to Santa Clara County Animal Control Officers and Certification.

As directed by the Board of Supervisors and on behalf of the Board President, our office is forwarding to you the enclosed certified copy of the response to the Final Grand Jury Report. This response constitutes the response of the Board of Supervisors, consistent with provisions of California Penal Section 933(c).

If there are any questions concerning this issue, please contact our office at 299-5001 or by email at michele.holscher@cob.sccgov.org.

Very truly yours,

Michele Holscher
Deputy Clerk, Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara

Enclosures
Date: August 3, 2015

To: Gary Graves, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the County Executive

From: Amy Brown, Director, Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency

Subject: Response to Civil Grand Jury Report “Santa Clara County Animal Control Officers and Certification”


Finding 1: The Santa Clara County Animal Care and Control follow their issuing and processing citations procedures and do not routinely void citations issued.

Recommendation 1: No recommendation needed.

Response: Agree.

Finding 2: The Santa Clara County Animal Care and Control animal control officers and animal control program manager are currently Penal Code Section 832 certified in arrest procedures and firearms and have their baton certification.

Recommendation 2: No recommendation needed.

Response: Agree.

Finding 3: The Santa Clara County Animal Care and Control animal control officers and program manager want to be and should be certified in the use of controlled substances for tranquilizing or euthanizing severely injured animals in the field.

Recommendation 3: The Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management should ensure that Animal Care and Control officers and program manager receive the new state certification training for use of controlled substances for tranquilizing or euthanizing severely injured animals in the field, once the new certification training is available.

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, S. Joseph Simitian
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith
Response: The respondent agrees with the finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The respondent cannot provide a timeframe for implementation because implementation depends upon the State finalizing regulations regarding the required training. We will implement the recommendation as soon as reasonably practical after the new certification training is available. The County’s Animal Care and Control Division has been monitoring the State’s development of the required training and associated regulations in order to move as quickly as possible.

Finding 4: The "Animal Control Officer Training and Procedures Manual" does not include mandatory training referenced in State Penal Code Section 832 Arrest and Firearms Course.

Recommendation 4: The County should ensure that the "Animal Control Officer Training and Procedures Manual" includes references to State Penal Code Section 832 Arrest and Firearms Course.

Response: The respondent agrees with the finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. We are in the process of revising the Procedures Manual and will include the recommended references as part of that revision process. We estimate that the Procedures Manual revision will be completed before the end of the calendar year.