

June 26, 2017

Board of Supervisors
Pima County
130 W. Congress St., 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Honorable Supervisors:

We are in receipt of the Memorandum from the County Administrator dated May 12, 2017 regarding "Animal Care and Enforcement Services Agreement." Please submit this letter into the record for the July 11, 2017 meeting of the Board of Supervisors regarding proposed amendments to Pima County Code 6.04.

On July 1, 2017, the Town of Sahuarita will begin its own animal control services. We have an agreement with the Humane Society of Southern Arizona to shelter impounded animals. Residents may bring in strays or surrender their own animals at The Animal League of Green Valley or at the Humane Society. The Humane Society will charge a one-time fee of \$45.00, which covers the cost of a health check, vaccinations, sheltering, spay/neuter and microchip if needed, and adoption. The proposed change to County ordinance 6.04 indicates our residents will now be charged \$60 per day for animal sheltering if they are to drop off an animal at the PACC shelter, in addition to fees for veterinary care and euthanasia.

First, it is not clear if this charge will be directly ascribed to any resident within our Town boundaries who brings in an owner-surrendered animal, a stray, or both. It is also not clear if the per day fee is cumulative, meaning a resident who brings in a stray in good faith, may be charged the fee for as long as that animal is sheltered at PACC. There seems to be no limit on this fee change.

Second, and more importantly, we believe these fees are unreasonably burdensome and unfair to the residents of Sahuarita, who are also residents of Pima County. The County Board of Supervisors as the elected body is obligated to represent its citizens and to provide a fundamental level of service in exchange for the property taxes paid by said residents. The County Administrator asserts the County is not legally obligated to provide animal care services within incorporated jurisdictions without an IGA. However, the Board of Supervisors has so elected to operate an animal care shelter and asked all residents of the county to support a \$22m bond to build a new shelter. Residents of Pima County, including those from Sahuarita, voted for and are paying for the new shelter through their property taxes.

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The County is not providing enhanced services for this shelter to our residents beyond what it already provides to all residents in unincorporated areas. In other words, the County has indicated it would continue to provide animal care services and a shelter regardless if a jurisdiction has an IGA or not. Further, the previous IGAs between the Town and the County were for enforcement of the Town's Animal Control Code, not for operations and maintenance of PACC.

Residents should not be expected to pay for PACC through property taxes and an additional fee to gain access to the facility and services. This is, in its simplest form, double taxation of the residents. Are you really saying that residents of Sahuarita are not allowed to bring animals to the shelter for drop off without paying a hefty fee even though they are paying for the exact same shelter to be built? And yet the County also encourages them to adopt from said shelter, accepting their monies as revenue. What exactly are they then paying for through the approved bond...a building for which they now have to pay more to access? If the cost to operate and maintain the shelter is not enough, then the operations should be changed and relevant baseline costs should be recovered through other means. All residents of Pima County should be paying equivalently for PACC.

The elected officials of the Town of Sahuarita are adamantly opposed to this County ordinance and fee change, which we believe unduly double taxes our residents.

Sincerely,


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