

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: May 17, 2010

SUBJECT: Rescind the Memorandum of Understanding with Ramona Humane Society (RHS) for the Collaboration of Services to the San Jacinto Valley.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Rescind the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramona Humane Society and the County of Riverside effective June 19, 2010.

BACKGROUND:

On May 8, 2007, agenda item 3.15, the Board of Supervisors authorized the new construction of an animal shelter within the San Jacinto Valley to better service the growing population in the Southwest part of the County. The County purchased land adjacent to the Ramona Humane Society (RHS) to build the shelter and sought to work with RHS in the common interest of protecting the health and welfare of the animals and providing outreach and education to the community. Thus, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was created by the Department of Animal Services (DAS) and RHS to outline such an agreement.

The MOU was signed by RHS on June 1, 2007 and approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 28, 2007, item 3.18, with the term through June 30, 2012. The Agreement stipulated, in part, that "the parties desire that both facilities be operated in a mutually cooperative fashion and not in direct competition with one another." RHS maintained the position that it wished to concentrate on the "no-kill" side of the animal business – adoptions, spay/neuter services and outreach events, clearly delineating the service lines.

However, on April 1, 2010, RHS entered into an agreement with the City of San Jacinto to provide both Field and Shelter Services. Furthermore, RHS entered into an agreement with the City of Hemet for these same services on April 27, 2010. Because of RHS' signed agreements with the Cities of Hemet and San Jacinto, a conflict of interest has been established and the MOU has been breached. The Department of Animal Services notified RHS of the intent to terminate the MOU effective June 19, 2010, in accordance with the MOU termination clause.

Jeff Stone
Supervisor
Third District

JS:vc



*Department of Animal Services
Robert Miller, Director*

April 19, 2010

Mr. Jeff Sheppard
President/CEO
Ramona Humane Society
690 Humane Way
San Jacinto, California 92582

RE: Memorandum of Understanding dated August 28, 2007

Dear Mr. Sheppard,

It has come to our attention that Ramona Humane Society (RHS) has submitted a proposal for Field and Shelter services to the City of San Jacinto and that the proposal was approved by the City Council on April 1, 2010, commencing services on May 18, 2010.

As you are aware, this constitutes a breach of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Riverside, Department of Animal Services (DAS) and your organization approved on August 28, 2007 and in affect through June 30, 2012. Namely, the first page of the MOU states that "the parties desire that both facilities be operated in a mutually cooperative fashion and not in direct competition of one another."

Since the beginning of the relationship between both of our organizations more than 15 years ago, DAS has provided all Field Services for the jurisdictions RHS supports currently through sheltering services. Besides the State and Federal requirements mandating the County to provide these services and the longevity in providing them to local municipalities, DAS has never given any indication that we would be ceasing providing these services. Further, RHS has maintained the position that it wishes to concentrate on the "no-kill" side of the animal business - adoptions, spay/neuter services and outreach events, clearly delineating the service lines. An obvious conflict of interest is occurring by RHS providing Field and Shelter services for other municipalities.

For these reasons, please accept this letter as formal notification of intent to terminate the MOU effective 60 days from today, June 19, 2010.

Sincerely,

Robert Miller
Director

Riverside County Community Health Agency
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES - Administrative Offices
5950 Wilderness Avenue, Riverside, California 92504
(951) 358-7387 FAX (951) 358-7300 TDD (951) 358-5124

County of Riverside



SUPERVISOR JEFF STONE THIRD DISTRICT

May 17, 2010

Mr. Jeff Sheppard
President/CEO
Ramona Humane Society
690 Humane Way
San Jacinto, California 92582

RE: Memorandum of Understanding dated August 28, 2007

Dear Mr. Sheppard,

Pursuant to the letter you received from Robert Miller from the Department of Animal Services, dated April 19, 2010, regarding the aforementioned matter, and the subsequent conversations you have had with my office, please accept this as formal notification that the County of Riverside hereby terminates the Memorandum of Understanding with Ramona Humane Society effective June 19, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Stone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "J" and "S".

Jeff Stone
Supervisor
Third District

cc. Robert Miller, Department of Animal Services

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