

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



14-1

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Tuesday, October 1, 2013, Neil Ludlam and Shelly Rizzotte spoke regarding Sky Valley Dog Hoarder, Mary Burnadette.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
14-1**

Rizzotti Law

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

District4 Supervisor John J Benoit <District4@rcbos.org>
Tuesday, July 30, 2013 10:41 AM
District4 Supervisor John J Benoit
Supervisor Benoit's Sky Valley "Dog Camp" Update for July 30

I am writing to update you about the case of Mary Bernadette Schwenn and her Sky Valley property. As mentioned in my last update on July 25, she was arrested that day on new felony animal cruelty charges. Also, the Riverside County Department of Animal Services impounded 10 dogs on her property.

The department continues to monitor this property every day to see if there are any more dogs that could be there.

On Monday afternoon, July 29, Ms. Schwenn was arraigned at the Larson Justice Center in Indio. She entered not guilty pleas. Bail is set at \$55,000 and there will be a bail review hearing Aug. 1 and felony settlement conference Aug. 7. If convicted on all 31 counts of animal cruelty, the sentence could range from probation to 9 years in custody.

Finally, if Ms. Schwenn is released from custody for any reason, the judge issued an order that she may not own or be around any animals. I'm pleased to see that, as a condition of bail, that she will be restrained from endangering any more animals while the criminal cases are pending.

The efforts of many in the county - the Department of Animal Services, the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department, Code Enforcement and County Counsel - brought this matter into the hands of the District Attorney and the courts. They have worked long hours and on weekends to pursue the fullest extent of criminal and civil enforcement.

I will continue to monitor this situation and support the District Attorney in their efforts to pursue this aggressively and safeguard the animals.

If you have missed any of the previous updates, I have added them to the Fourth District home page, www.rivco4.org. They are under "News and Updates" or you can click [here](#).

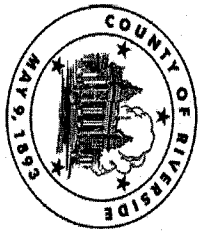
Sincerely,

JOHN J. BENOIT
Chairman, Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, Fourth District

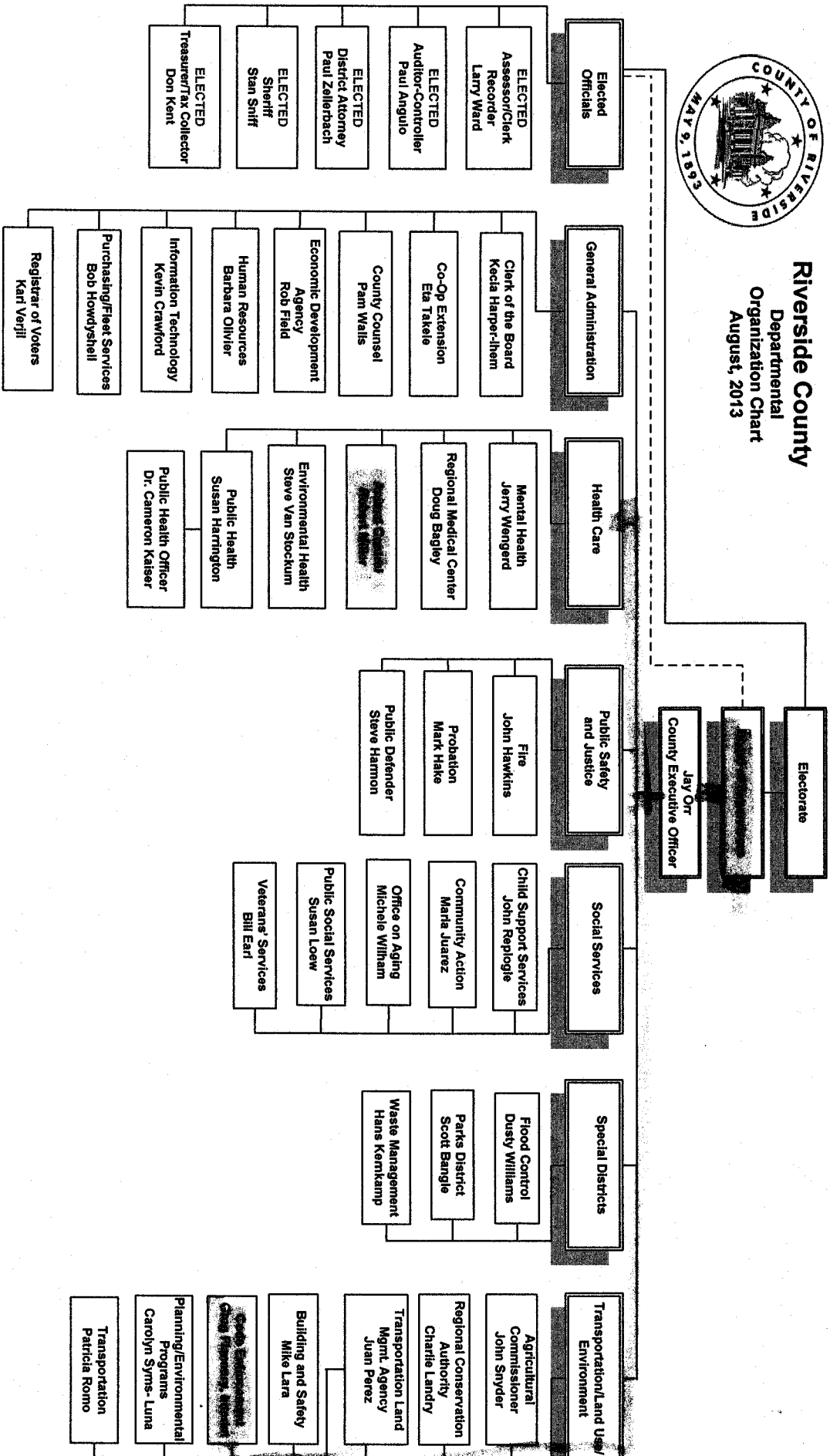
Oral
Comm

10/1/2013

Shelley Rizzotti



Riverside County Departmental Organization Chart August, 2013



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FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

SUPERIOR COURT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

JUL 24 2013

[Signature]
V MM

V. Davila

JUL 24 2013

People of the State of Calif
v.
Bernadette Mary Schwenn

INF 1301924
Case #: A13-022621

Declaration in Support of Arrest Warrant

I, Rita Gutierrez, Riverside County Department of Animal Services (DAS) am employed as an Animal Control Officer with the title of Commander of Field Services. I have been so employed with DAS since July of 1998. I am P.C. 832 certified.

On 4/17/2013 (DAS) received a complaint of over 30 dogs living unattended and abandoned on a property owned by (S-1) Bernadette Mary Schwenn, DOB 09/27/48, Caucasian, female. The property, APN 741-090-008, is located in the unincorporated area of Thousand Palms on Thousand Palms Canyon Road. A call was created and patrols set up to investigate and insure the animals had proper sustenance.

On Friday, 6/28/13 information was obtained regarding new born pups located at (S-1) Ms. Bernadette Schwenn's property. The allegations were that some of the pups were found dead on both 6/26 and 6/27. Photos were taken by (W-1) Kitty Pallesen on 6/26. On Saturday, 6/29/13 I spoke with Ms. Pallesen who stated she saw the dead and dying pups at the property. She said she thought more would succumb that day because of the extreme heat.

I called ACO Lisa Boughamer and asked her to respond to the property to evaluate the pups located under the "Volkswagen bus", located at the far north end of the property. I later received a call from Officer Boughamer. She said the pups were alive under the bus but crying as the mother dogs had been scared by ACO Boughamer's presence. She stated it was extremely hot but there was still water and food available for the nursing mothers. She left the property. At approximately 7:30 pm, I received another call from Ms. Pallesen. She said all the pups were dead. I told her I would send the ACO out to collect the dead pups. Officer Boughamer returned to the property but was refused entry by Ms. Schwenn. For ACO Boughamer's safety, I told her to leave.

On Sunday morning, 6/30/13, at approximately 9:10 am, Animal Control Officer's Boughamer and Duchene returned to the property to locate the dead pups and assess any other pups left on the property. The dead pups were gone. ACO Boughamer stated it smelled like something had died under the bus and had started to rot. Two live pups were found on the property closest to the road on the southernmost end. The newborn pups, under 7 days old were impounded and given Animal Services impound numbers A1030498 and A1030499.

At approximately 9:41 am a TEXT was received by Officer Duchene requesting assistance by the Riverside County Sheriff's department regarding the same property. (W-2) Detective Chad Martin had received a phone call reporting the abandoned dogs. Detective Martin met ACO Duchene by the property. ACO Duchene briefed him on our involvement. Soon thereafter, Detective Martin called ACO Duchene and told him the dog owner, Ms. Schwenn had returned to the property with her friend Elizabeth Coles. ACO Duchene returned to the property. An additional 12 pups 4 males, 8 females were found on the property. Deputy Martin ordered the pups removed from the property. Once examined and determined to be healthy enough to be removed, Ms. Elizabeth Coles took custody of the pups.

Ms. Schwenn was asked to show both the Detective and Animal Services where the dead pups were. She refused. She stated the pups had died from "Parvo" because the rescue groups that were on the property on Friday had infected her property.

4
FILED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

A. GARCIA

AUG 15 2013

1 MARY BERNADETTE SCHWENN
2 C/O 73-333 SANTA ROSA WAY
3 PALM DESERT, CA 92260
4 In Pro Per

5 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
6 **COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**
7 **DESERT BRANCH, PALM SPRINGS BRANCH**

8
9 MARY BERNADETTE SCHWENN, aka,
10 ~~MARY BERNADETTE KADIBIN~~, an
11 individual,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 vs.

14 ~~COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE; RIVERSIDE~~
15 ~~COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL~~
16 ~~SERVICES, and DOES 1-100, inclusive,~~

17 Defendants.

CASE NO. **PSC 1300415**

~~VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR~~
~~VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS~~
~~AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS~~
POINTS OF AUTHORITIES; EXHIBITS

PROOF OF SERVICE

{Filed Concurrently With Summons}

UNLIMITED CIVIL

DATE: 08-16-13
DEPT: PS 1 8:30 A.M.
JUDGE: HON.
TRIAL DATE: NOT SET
ACTION FILED: AUGUST 15, 2013

18
19
20 COMES NOW the Plaintiff, MARY BERNADETTE SCHWENN, an individual, and for
21 causes of action against Defendants, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE and RIVERSIDE COUNTY,
22 DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES, and DOES 1-100, alleges as follows:

23 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO**
24 **ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

25 1. PARTIES

26 A. PLAINTIFFS

27 1) Plaintiff, MARY BERNADETTE SCHWENN ("Schwenn" or "Plaintiff"), is and was at
28 all times mentioned herein the owner of real property ("the Property") in the Community of

- 1 -

VERIFIED COMPLAINT; PTS & AUTHORITIES; EXHIBITS

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Mary Bernadette Schwenn c/o General Delivery Thousand Palms, CA 92276 TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO. (Optional): _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____ ATTORNEY FOR (Name): In Pro Per	FOR COURT USE ONLY FILED SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE SEP 12 2013 A. GARCIA
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Riverside STREET ADDRESS: 32556 Tahquitz Canyon Way MAILING ADDRESS: Palm Springs 92262 CITY AND ZIP CODE: Palm Springs BRANCH NAME: Palm Springs	CASE NUMBER: PSC 1300415 JUDICIAL OFFICER:
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Mary Bernadette Schwenn DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Riverside Co. et al County of Riverside	DEPT: PS-1
NOTICE OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS	

Ms SEP 18 2013

1. Please take notice that, as of (date): **8-12-2013**
- the following party or
- the attorney for:
- a. plaintiff (name):
 - b. defendant (name):
 - c. petitioner (name):
 - d. respondent (name):
 - e. other (describe):

has changed his or her address for service of notices and documents in the above-captioned action.


A list of additional parties represented is provided in Attachment 1.

2. The new address of (name): **Mary Bernadette Schwenn**
- is as follows:
- a. Street: ~~c/o General Delivery~~ **Thousand Palms Post Office**
 - b. City: **Thousand Palms, CA 92276**
 - c. Mailing address (if different from above):
 - d. State and zip code:
 - e. Telephone number:
 - f. Fax number (optional):
 - g. E-mail address (optional):

3. All notices and documents regarding the action should be sent to the above address.

Date: **9-12-13**

Mary Bernadette Schwenn
M. B. Schwenn
 (TYPE OR PRINT NAME)


 (SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY)

6



HUFF POST NEWS

Patricia Ritz, Convicted Animal Abuser, Eaten By Own Dogs

The Huffington Post | By Hilary Hanson
Posted: 09/25/2013 6:01 pm EDT | Updated: 09/27/2013 9:52 am EDT



WFIE

A Kentucky woman previously convicted of animal cruelty is believed to have been eaten by her dozens of hybrid wolf-dogs after she died.

The remains of 67-year-old Patricia Ritz were discovered in her Fordsville home by deputies after neighbors reported they hadn't seen her in more than a week, NBC News reported.

Authorities who searched the home found only a human skull and jawbone, which they believe to be Ritz's, according to WHAS 11. Investigators believe Ritz died from an illness and her pets, left without food after her death, consumed her for survival.

Ritz has animal cruelty convictions dating back to 1986, WFIE reports.

Adopt-A-Husky told the station that her first offense involved 50 dogs, though it is unclear exactly what the charges were. The next year, while living in Evansville, Ind., she was found guilty of five counts of animal abuse and ordered not to transport dogs into the state.

She was charged with animal cruelty at least five more times between then and 2003. On one occasion in 1999, authorities found 184 dogs on her property and had to euthanize 159 of them. They allowed her to keep the remaining dogs on the promise that she would spay and neuter them, but the number of dogs on her property continued to grow as the years went on.

"I cannot understand why someone would live like this and put animals through this," Mary Beth Kolb of Adopt-A-Husky told WFIE.

County animal control worker Tracey Ward told NBC News that Ritz likely meant well, but "when you don't spay and neuter, they're going to breed. It's not going to be just one or two puppies -- it's going to be seven, nine, 12."

Currently, 27 of Ritz's dogs are at a veterinary hospital, while another 12 are at the Ohio County Animal Shelter. Rescue workers say they are not planning to put the dogs up for adoption, but instead are attempting to place the wolf-dog hybrids at rescue facilities and sanctuaries. They are, however, accepting donations for the animals' rehabilitation.

Those interested in donating are asked to call [Wills Animal Hospital](http://www.willsanimalhospital.com) at (270)-684-3201.

[

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),
Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject
to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: NEIL LUDLAM

Address: _____
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____

Date: 10/1 **Agenda #** PUBLIC COMMENT

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed
for "Appeal", please state separately your position on
the appeal below:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

I give my 3 minutes to: ~~STEVE RIZZO~~

BOARD RULES

Requests to Address Board on "Agenda" Items:

You may request to be heard on a published agenda item. Requests to be heard must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board before the scheduled meeting time.

Requests to Address Board on items that are "NOT" on the Agenda:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these rules, member of the public shall have the right to address the Board during the mid-morning "Oral Communications" segment of the published agenda. Said purpose for address must pertain to issues which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors. YOUR TIME WILL BE LIMITED TO THREE (3) MINUTES.

Power Point Presentations/Printed Material:

Speakers who intend to conduct a formalized Power Point presentation or provide printed material must notify the Clerk of the Board's Office by 12 noon on the Monday preceding the Tuesday Board meeting, insuring that the Clerk's Office has sufficient copies of all printed materials and at least one (1) copy of the Power Point CD. Copies of printed material given to the Clerk (by Monday noon deadline) will be provided to each Supervisor. If you have the need to use the overhead "Elmo" projector at the Board meeting, please insure your material is clear and with proper contrast, notifying the Clerk well ahead of the meeting, of your intent to use the Elmo.

Individual Speaker Limits:

Individual speakers are limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. Please step up to the podium when the Chairman calls your name and begin speaking immediately. Pull the microphone to your mouth so that the Board, audience, and audio recording system hear you clearly. Once you start speaking, the "green" podium light will light. The "yellow" light will come on when you have one (1) minute remaining. When you have 30 seconds remaining, the "yellow" light will begin flash, indicating you must quickly wrap up your comments. Your time is up when the "red" light flashes. The Chairman adheres to a strict three (3) minutes per speaker. **Note: If you intend to give your time to a "Group/Organized Presentation", please state so clearly at the very bottom of the reverse side of this form.**

Group/Organized Presentations:

Group/organized presentations with more than one (1) speaker will be limited to nine (9) minutes at the Chairman's discretion. The organizer of the presentation will automatically receive the first three (3) minutes, with the remaining six (6) minutes relinquished by other speakers, as requested by them on a completed "Request to Speak" form, and clearly indicated at the front bottom of the form.

Addressing the Board & Acknowledgement by Chairman:

The Chairman will determine what order the speakers will address the Board, and will call on all speakers in pairs. The first speaker should immediately step to the podium and begin addressing the Board. The second speaker should take up a position in one of the chamber aisles in order to quickly step up to the podium after the preceding speaker. This is to afford an efficient and timely Board meeting, giving all attendees the opportunity to make their case. Speakers are prohibited from making personal attacks, and/or using coarse, crude, profane or vulgar language while speaking to the Board members, staff, the general public and/or meeting participants. Such behavior, at the discretion of the Board Chairman may result in removal from the Board Chambers by Sheriff Deputies.

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),
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to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Shelley R. Roth

Address: _____
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____

Date: 10-1-13 **Agenda #** Pub. Comment

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

N/A

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed
for "Appeal", please state separately your position on
the appeal below:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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