Correspondence and complaints that were sent to Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board on, or since 5/15/23

- 1. Britton Griffith
- 2. Bonney Brown
- 3. Ben Johnson
- 4. B.J. Perez
- 5. Shannon Millard
- 6. Rene Johnson
- 7. Mike
- 8. Kim Becker
- 9. Jodie Wang
- 10. Jeanette Dunning
- 11. Gloria Darby

From: Britton Griffith

To: <u>Animal - Advisory Board</u>

Subject: Statement in Full: Britton Griffith Public Comment WCRAS Advisory Board

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 12:52:39 PM

Attachments: NHS. Public Statement. Britton Griffith. 2023.pdf

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Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your time today!

I apologize I wasn't able to get my full comment into the record.

Please note this letter was drafted hours prior to learning that Greg Hall had resigned his position.

Again, I appreciate your efforts so much in getting this organization's transparency, truths and future into a secure and solid space.

Best Wishes, Britton

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201 W. Liberty | Suite 300 | Reno, NV 89501

c (775) 813.1822

www.recnv.com

Good Morning,

For the record my name is Britton Griffith. My full statement has been submitted to The City of Reno

In 2021 I sought out a board seat with the Nevada Humane Society, (referred to today as NHS), I have had a lifelong dedication to animals and had fostered animals and adopted them from the society. I resigned on November of 2022.

I was unanimously approved to serve on the board of the Humane Society on Wed, Mar 24, 2021, 12:48 PM.

Over that time, I worked closely with the staff and foster team and vet services. I fostered a set of 5 (1 day old kittens) adopted a small dog and later a senior dog of 14 years of age.

I participated as a community lead for Heels and Hounds and worked on the duck race with the organization as their two biggest fundraisers.

I built relationships between the NHS with places and organizations such as The Riverwalk District, Midtown District and Downtown merchants. We co-ran adoption centers, fundraising events and media days on news outlets, Wine Walks, The Eddy and Wild River Grille and more locations. We had plans to bring vet services, food and more to Shelters, Karma Boxes and other pick-up locations.

Over this time, I also participated in the 5 year strategic plan in Lake Tahoe, getting to know the other board members, many who had served for over a decade.

I was present for the Candor Fires where the NHS had to step up to overcome serious threats to our wildlife, residents and their pets. Their efforts were breathtaking, I have never seen a staff give so much of themselves to their mission and the animals they loved. The staff also gave out food to members of the community.

I developed strong relationships with the staff, as we shared a love of both the animals, and our regional communities. To say the least, we were a terrific team working together to raise money, build bridges and strengthen the brand of the Nevada Humane Society.

I even recommended another Board Member who was accepted.

During Board Meetings red flags began to arise, they had hired two COO's: Lisa Feder lasted 10 months & Rory Adams lasted 4 months and then it seemed that no one could fill the position. They were losing vet staff and clinicians at an alarming rate and then turnover began to jump up each month. At the time CEO Greg Hall gave these reports and when asked he stated these occurrences were happening all over the United States and that in the NHS's case people were

leaving due to inflation and seeking more pay.

In one meeting he said something to the effect that "women take his verbiage to be yelling or too assertive, but that he is just a very passionate man and sometimes he raises his voice, but he isn't yelling." I have heard similar narrative in my life and I began to be suspicious.

In addition, I learned that they were becoming too overrun at the shelter and were forced to abort kittens of pregnant cats and that pregnant dogs would soon go under the same surgeries to take the populations down. This was never reported to the board.

I began to ask people that had become friends of mine to elaborate on what was going on behind the scenes and each of them was reluctant to say anything poorly about Greg Hall as there was a history of retaliation and no consequences given by the Board President and members. The messages returned again and again the same Greg Hall was continually creating a hostile environment and the turnover rate was not about inflation or monies, however, it was due to feeling uncomfortable in his presence.

I felt in my time at the NHS that Greg was protected by the Board of Directors for whatever reasons, I do not know. However, I know that in the Board Meetings, word of mouth, reports of turnover and committee reports, there is no possible way someone could say they don't know Greg iss detrimental, causes a hostile work environment and is the single reason good staff were being fired without cause. Instead, people supported him in the meetings stating things like they "knew he was stressed" or "had his back" and otherwise. It seemed to me that there was a barrier between new participants on the board and friends of Greg's. I also know due to his actions donors are leaving, volunteers are leaving and since my departure board members have left.

These are people that dedicated their ENTIRE lives to helping animals, circumstances that were created without any response from the Board President or others to address their complaints after leaving must be of such a magnitude that even people with these values had no recourse but to leave.

I believe at this time, we are risking the lives of hundreds of animals by allowing Greg Hall to remain at the Nevada Humane Society. Should he leave, I would reapply to the board of directors and would be honored to serve and assist in building back the staff and reputation and culture of this organization. I also understand that many other people that have served in Greg's position would be willing to come back in an interim to work to hire new replacements.

I am here today because I resigned on November 15th, 2022 and in my own fear of retaliation, I didn't state my sincere concerns, grievances and sadness over the failing of one man bringing down an entire organization and now, I regret that decision and since his employees, the animals under his care and the volunteers have no voice, I cannot remain silent on things I have witnessed. I didn't believe my words would fall on any ears that would provide consequences as the time I was a part of the organization so many others have had written complaints, requested meetings and even left the NHS due to a lack of support or 'light at the end of the tunnel'.

I ask that Greg Hall be removed effective immediately as CEO or as any employee from the NHS with a vote of no confidence or other avenues.

Thank you for your time, Britton Griffith, City of Reno, Ward 1

From: Britton Griffith

To: nevadahumanesocietyboard@gmail.com; Animal - Advisory Board

Subject: Community Events & Helpers for Adoption + Fostering (Riverwalk District & DRP & More)

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 2:57:25 PM

Attachments: image.png

image.png

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Good Afternoon Everyone,

I hope this email finds you well! Thank you all for your time, efforts and kindness for our fur family members!

I know one of the top 'asks' of yesterday's meeting was to help find fosters and empty the shelters.

I spent yesterday reaching out to organizations and have two events that will host an adoption event.

We have lots of people that want to help, but we want to make sure we are assisting in ways that benefit and do not burden you.

Please see the below for the events where you could set up a table as a highlighted non-profit and bring an adoption van out.

Also, if you could provide a press release or document that guides people on how best to serve the Nevada Humane Society as a foster we can distribute through our communities as well.

I know everyone is short staffed and I wanted to ensure that we follow your rules/regulations

We have groups that can assist with a press release as well and you can just fill in the blanks for procedures.

After reviewing the below, please advise how and if we can assist in signing you up as an adoption location for either event and how we can spread the word for fosters.

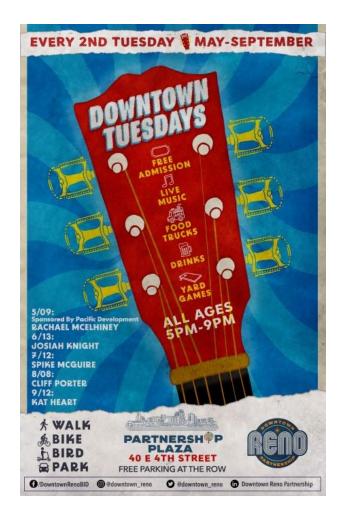
I appreciate you all so much!

Best Wishes, Britton

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1.) June 16th - Downtown Reno Plaza and Downtown Reno Partnership

https://renothisweek.com/downtownreno/events/downtown-tuesdays



2.) June 17th - Rush the River- Riverwalk District https://www.renoriver.org/rush-the-river/



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www.recnv.com

From: Bonney Brown

To: Animal - Advisory Board

Cc: Schull, Shyanne; duerrn; Mayor Hillary Schieve (SchieveH@reno.gov)

Subject: Ardena Perry and the protective order for animals at NHS 2007

Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 4:46:53 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Ardena Perry, protective order and vet records for canine victem.pdf

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board Members:

In the meeting on May 15 Ms. Ardena Perry called in to voice several concerns. Among them were concerns about me, which are part of an ongoing issue Ms. Perry has been harboring for over 15 years when Nevada Humane Society was granted a protective order to keep Ms. Perry from the premises.

The attached document includes:

- A copy of the protective order granted by Reno Justice Court in 2007
- The documentation of the issues NHS staff had experienced with Ms. Perry, including harassment of staff, visitors and animals, as well as adopting under false pretenses, drugging the dog and having the dog's life ended needlessly.
- The veterinary records obtained for the court case that show that the dog was drugged by Ms. Perry

Separate photos (3) show Carie the dog from a 2007 video to promote her adoption.

I am sure you are aware that a protective order to keep a resident out of a county building is not granted easily or lightly. Further, Ms. Perry is the only person NHS ever sought to keep from the facility in the 7 years that I was the Executive Director.

The protective order was granted because in addition to ongoing harassment of NHS staff and animals, Ms. Perry had a friend adopt a German Shepard named Carie under false pretenses, drugged the dog with her own medication (Librium, every two hours — according to her own veterinarian's notes - see attached PDF - until the dog was disoriented and unstable on her feet) and had the veterinarian euthanize the dog, though the vet suggested returning the dog to NHS.

Ms. Perry had almost certainly seen the dog in a promotional adoption video – see still photos attached. The video was created to help find a kind citizen who would provide her a loving home she deserved and the ongoing care she needed for her medical condition, pannus. Pannus would have eventually led to blindness, however multiple veterinarians at the shelter had already determined her case could be treated/managed while maintaining good quality of life. A google search will confirm this prognosis. While Carie was not yet blind, many people and animals lead full happy lives though blind, but Ms. Perry indicated in multiple phone conversations with me that she did not agree that animals who are less than perfect should be saved by animal shelters.

The judge agreed that not only had Ms. Perry intentionally deceived the shelter, she drugged and

euthanized Carie. Further the judge agreed that other animals in the shelter were not necessarily safe from such actions in the future and hence granted a protective order keeping Ms. Perry out of the Nevada Humane Society shelter.

To understand the use and impact of Librium in people and dogs, here is some additional information:

- According to the FDAs website: "Librium is indicated for the management of anxiety disorders or for the short-term relief of symptoms of anxiety, withdrawal symptoms of acute alcoholism, and preoperative apprehension and anxiety. Anxiety or tension associated with the stress of everyday life usually does not require treatment with an anxiolytic." This drug is also used for dogs, but in a much lower dose than what is used for humans.
- Librium is in the Benzodiazepines class of drugs. "Symptoms of Benzodiazepines Poisoning in Dogs: Benzodiazepines, when taken, absorb completely and rapidly. Dogs that consume these medications may show symptoms very quickly. The onset of symptoms and the severity of symptoms are dependent upon the quantity consumed. Symptoms can include: Weakness, very slow breathing, vomiting, confusion, disorientation, lack of coordination, decrease in body temperature, decrease in blood pressure, relaxed muscles, tachycardia, arrhythmia" https://wagwalking.com/condition/benzodiazepines-poisoning.

I would be happy to answer any further questions the Advisory Board may have on this matter and to provide additional supporting information.

Truly, Bonney Brown

Bonney Brown

435-899-9003

bbrown@humanenetwork.org

President & Principal Consultant

Humane Network (Web and Facebook)

More from Humane Network:

Shelter Success Simplified podcast: (Web and Facebook)

Options Veterinary Care clinic (Web and Facebook)

Alive and Thriving animal behavior training [Web] and [Facebook]

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1 2	Case No. RCP2007-037951 Dept. No. 2	DE	C 1
3	DARIM REF IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RENO TOWNSHIP BY	10 K	OVE V
4	COUNTY OF WASHOE, STATE OF NEVADA		DEP
6			
7	BONNEY BROWN NEVADA HUMANE SOCIET plicant, BONNEY BROWN NEVADA HUMANE SOCIET plicant, STALKING, AGGRAVATED STALKING, AGGRAVATED		
8	STALKING, OR HARASSMENT (NRS 200.591)		
9	ARDENA PERRY Adverse Party.) Date Issued: <u>DECEMBER 18, 2</u> Expiration Date: <u>DECEMBER 18, 2</u>	00	7 008
11		}	
12	YOU, THE ADVERSE PARTY, ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY INTENTIONAL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL VIOLATION and can result in your immediate arrest or issuance of an arrest warrant. Unless a more severe penalty is prescribed by law for the act that		
13	constitutes the violation of the order, a violation of an Extended Order for Protection Against Stalking, Aggravated Stalking or Harassment is a category C felony which is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five (5) years, and a fine of not more than \$10,000.00.	1	
15 16	PURSUANT TO NRS 193.166, if the act that constitutes the violation of a protection order is itself a felony, the violator shall, in addition to the term of imprisonment prescribed by statute for the crime, be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 20 years.		
17 18	YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that you CAN BE ARRESTED even if the person who obtained the order invites or allows you to contact them. You have the sole responsibility to avoid or refrain from violating the terms of this order. Only the Court can change the order upon written application.		
19 20	WARNING: Possession of a firearm or ammunition while this order is in effect may constitute a felony under federal law punishable by a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or a prison sentence of up to ten (10) years.		
21	This order meets the Full Faith and Credit provisions of the Violence Against Women Act and is enforceable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and Indian Nations. All other Courts and law enforcement with jurisdiction within the United States and all Indian Nations shall give full faith and credit to this order pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Sec. 2265.	r	
23	Violation of the order may subject you to federal charges and punishment pursuant to 18 U.S.C Sec. 2261(a)(1) and (2) and 2262(a)(1) and (2).	-	
24			
25			

Form A-16 Extended Order for Protection Against Stalking, Aggravated Stalking or Harassment (NRS 200 591) ©2007 Nevada Supreme Court Revised July 27, 2007

1	The Court having considered the filings, testimony (if applicable) and evidence							
2	presented at hearing, and the Court having found that the Adverse Party received notice of							
3	hearing at which such person had an opportunity to participate, and the Adverse Party was							
4	present, was not present, was represented by counsel DON EVANS, ESQ							
5	and							
6	the above-named Applicant(s) X was present, was not present, was represented by							
7	counsel, and the Court having proper jurisdiction over the							
8	parties and this subject matter, and							
9	it appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the Adverse Party has committed							
10	and/or is committing or remains a threat to commit stalking, aggravated stalking, or							
11	harassment, and an Extended Order is warranted							
12	or							
13	based upon the stipulation of the parties,							
14	The Court enters an Extended Order, and as a result:							
15	YOU ARE PROHIBITED, either directly or through an agent, from contacting,							
16	intimidating, using, attempting to use, or threatening the use of physical force, or otherwise							
17	interfering in any way with the Applicant and/or the following persons:							
18								
19	including, but not limited to, in person, by telephone, through the mail, through electronic							
20	mail (e-mail), facsimile (fax), or through another person;							
21	1. YOU ARE ORDERED to stay away from the following places:							
22	☐ Residence(s)							
23								
24	Place(s) of Employment (Name & Address):							
25								

	School(s) (Name & Address):
	Other Locations Frequented (Name & Address):
•	
2.	YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED: RESPONDENT MAY VOLUNTEE
	FOR ANIMAL CONTROL AND ENTER ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE
	PARKING LOT.
3.	On the issue of costs and official fees, the Court orders as follows:
	N/A
4.	THIS ORDER WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL 11:59 P.M. ON THE
DATE SET 1	FORTH ON PAGE 1 UNLESS THE COURT ORDERS OTHERWISE.
5.	YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT if you are arrested for violating this
order, you wi	Il not be admitted to bail sooner than 12 hours after your arrest if:
(a) Th	ne arresting officer determines that such a violation is accompanied by a direct or
(b) Y	ou have previously violated a temporary or extended order for protection; or
(c) At	t the time of the violation or within 2 hours after the violation, you have: (1) A concentration of alcohol of 0.08 or more in your blood or breath; or
	(2) An amount of a prohibited substance in your blood or urine that is equal to or greater than the amount set forth in subsection 3 of NRS 484.379.
6.	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall transmit a copy
	together with the application, to the WASHOE County Sheriff's
	r the Constable and/or any other appropriate law
enforcement	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that said law enforcement agency will promptly
7.	
attempt to se	crve this Order upon the Adverse Party, without charge to the Applicant, and upon
,	

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24

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service file a return of service with the Court by the end of the next business day after service is made.

NOTICE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Any law enforcement officer, with or without a warrant, may arrest and take into custody the Adverse Party, when the law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that (a) an Order has been issued pursuant to NRS 200.591 against the Adverse Party; (b) the Adverse Party has been served with a copy of the Order; and (c) the Adverse Party is acting or has acted in violation of the Order. This arrest may occur regardless of whether the violation occurred in the officer's presence.

Any law enforcement agency in this state may enforce a Court Order issued pursuant to NRS 200.591, without regard to the county in which the Order is issued.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 18th day of December, 2007.

Judge

Judge

PROOF OF SERVICE UPON ADVERSE PARTY

I, the undersigned, personally served the Adverse Party above named with a copy of this Extended Order for Protection Against Stalking, Aggravated Stalking or Harassment on the date set forth below.

> Signature Print Name

> > Date of Service

Form A-16 Extended Order for Protection Against Stalking. Aggravated Stalking or Harassment (NRS 200.591)

©2007 Nevada Supreme Court Revised July 27, 2007



We are seeking to extend the protective order to keep Ardena Perry of 4660 Goodwin Rd., Sparks, NV 89436, from stalking and harassing the visitors, employees, and animals at Nevada Humane Society 2825 Longley, Lane, Ste B, Reno, NV 89502.

Since the order was put in place the disruptive effects of Ms. Perry's campaign of harassment and intimidation through her visits to the shelter, attempts to arrange pet adoptions for dubious purposes, repeated phone calls and e-mails, which had become highly disruptive to this non-profit organization's work, has been stopped. This has been a huge relief to the staff.

While we believe that Ms. Perry feels that she is helping the animals, the result of her behavior is the opposite. If the order is not extended we would be fearful for the safety of the animals and concerned that visitors to the shelter — citizens who come to visit with or adopt pets — would be subjected to Ms. Perry's disruptive behavior.

Her pattern of harassing calls and e-mails dates back to August 15. She reported being at the shelter four times a week. The e-mails and photos we submitted show a level of obsession with the shelter animals resulting from these visits. The information in them is often inaccurate.

On October 31, we received an e-mail from Ms. Perry that starts off with: "It is 2 in the morn, the world is quiet, only my thoughts hold me from sleep. Taking a Note pad I start Scratching out these demons from the day. . ."

That same day Ms. Perry had a friend come in to adopt a beautiful German Shepherd named Carie and turn the dog over to her. She claims to have had the dog put down within 24 hours, for highly suspect reasons. The veterinary "bill" provided is insubstantial (at best) and Ms. Perry refused to provide the veterinarian's name. She said that the dog's body has been cremated, preventing a necropsy from being done by another veterinarian to provide independent confirmation of Ms. Perry's claims.

Our experienced staff has certified that the dog was healthy when she left the building. We have photos and video of Carrie as she appeared on the City Critters local cable television show just prior to the adoption. According to our adoption agreement and verbal instructions, adopters are to bring pets back to us if they have difficulties with them or any medical issues within the first two weeks.

On November 2, Ardena called Robin Krajicek, a NHS employee, at work to report the death of Carie the dog. During the roughly 40 minute conversation Ardena stated that she "gets mad at people who come to see the dogs and yells at them to leave the dogs alone."

Ms. Perry's photos (including one from the day the dog arrived at the shelter) and comments in her November 3 e-mail show a pattern of obsession with the dog she subsequently had killed. There are photos enclosed of other animals at the shelter that Ardena has become fixated on over the past couple of months. When the animals are adopted, she has claimed (verbally to more than one individual) that Nevada Humane Society is hiding these animals from her.

Our staff felt that Ms. Perry's presence and contact was extremely stressful, hurtful, frightening, and very disruptive. The protective order has offered relief from this.

Given the level of anxiety and irrational comments made in Ms. Perry's e-mails, on the internet, and in her phone calls, staff members are both fearful of her harming the animals and that her behavior may escalate should the protective order be lifted.

We are asking the court to extend the restraining order to keep Ms. Ardena Perry from the premises and to prevent her from contacting staff members and volunteers.

Respectfully,

Bonney Brown
Executive Director

Nevada Humane Society

Barney En



Summary

We are requesting that WCRAS rescind the foster care status of Ms. Ardena Perry based on the following information. Supporting evidence is attached.

While there is no doubt that Ms. Perry feels that she is acting in the best interest of the animals, we believe that it is very clear that her actions resulted in the unnecessary and probably intentional death of the dog she took into her care from NHS on November 1, 2007. This resulted in NHS having to go to court to obtain a protective order against Ardena Perry on issued on December 18, 2007. (Copy of order attached.) And, further, we believe that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that Ms. Perry has an obsession with shelter animals and a strong belief that most of them are better off dead.

The wellbeing of the animals ought to be considered above the desire of an individual to be of service to them – in this case Ms. Perry's desire to be a foster home. Where WCRAS foster homes do not return the animal to the shelter for adoption, the foster person needs to be able to find the pet a good home on their own, the responsibility is all the greater.

Defining the need for Ms. Perry's services

Ms. Perry can only foster puppies, as she is at the current county dog limit.

NHS and other area groups can easily handle the volume of puppies coming in to WCRAS who may need foster care. Puppies are not only readily adoptable, but foster homes for them are very plentiful. NHS has over 360 foster homes who can take puppies for WCRAS should a foster home be needed. Additionally the Northern Nevada SPCA, Truckee Humane Society, and Pet Network – three reputable organizations – can often take puppies.

Overview and history

Nevada Humane Society was put in the regrettable situation of needing to seek a protective order against Ms. Perry for two reasons: We were fearful for the safety of the animals and concerned for the staff, volunteers, and visitors to the shelter who could end up being subjected to Ms. Perry's irrational criticism and disruptive, repetitive contacts.

On December 18, 2007 an "extended order for protection against stalking, aggravated stalking, or harassment (NRS 200.591)" was granted to Nevada Humane Society for a one year period. These orders are not issued lightly in cases where the two parties are not in any way related. In a case where a public entity, like NHS, is making the request, the bar is quite high.

To put this in perspective: NHS completed over 8,000 pet adoptions and an estimated 20,000 people visited the shelter in 2007. We also have over 1,600 volunteers. Ms. Perry is the only person with whom we have had issues of this nature. I have worked in the humane movement since 1991, working at other shelters and several major humane organizations. Ms. Perry is the first person I have encountered who required such drastic measures as a protective order.

Our staff and volunteers experienced Ms. Perry's constant contact and presence as extremely stressful, hurtful, frightening, and very disruptive.

- Ms. Perry engaged in a campaign of harassment and intimidation through her visits to the shelter. The
 repeated phone calls and e-mails, had become highly disruptive to our non-profit organization's work.
 Her pattern of prolonged and harassing calls and e-mails to NHS staff members and board members
 dates back to August 15. (Copies of the e-mails available upon request.)
- Ms. Perry reported being at the shelter four times a week. The e-mails, photos, and blogging show a level of obsession with the shelter animals resulting from these visits. The information in them is often inaccurate. (Documentation attached.)
- Ms, Perry sent around a photo collage she made that included a photo of one dog at NHS with an overturned water bowl shown over and over in juxtaposition with dogs in a Chinese meat market. Since it is obviously not our policy to have dogs without water all that needed to be done was to inform a staff member and the problem would be rectified. (There is no way to know if the water was overturned by the dog by accident, or by a visitor.) The dogs in our facility can look forward to being adopted. By contrast a Chinese meat market is a place where dogs are routinely deprived of their most basic needs and where their lives end in a most cruel manner. (Copy of collage attached.)
- Ms. Perry admits to having deliberately arranged other pet adoptions in order to prove her point that the animals are better off euthanized. She stated in one communication that some of the animals she had people adopt "were not treatable." This indicates to us that she had other animals adopted and euthanized by friends. (Copy of e-mail attached.)
- On November 2, Ms. Perry called Robin Krajicek, a NHS employee, at work to report the death of Carie, a German Shepherd. During the roughly 40 minute conversation Ardena stated that she "gets mad at people who come to see the dogs and yells at them to leave the dogs alone." (Copy of Ms. Krajicek's signed statement attached.)
- Ms Perry has made numerous factually inaccurate and inflammatory statements on online blogs about Nevada Humane Society. (Copies of some of the blogs available upon request.)

The incident surrounding Carie the dog

On October 31, we received an e-mail from Ms. Perry that starts off with:

"It is 2 in the morn, the world is quiet, only my thoughts hold me from sleep. Taking a Note pad I start Scratching out these demons from the day. .." The e-mail is in a flowery script and illustrated by images of a baby with a dog. It is accompanied by dramatic electronic music, which plays when you open the e-mail. (Print copy enclosed. Electronic copy with the sounds and visuals available upon request.)

That same day Ms. Perry had a friend come in to adopt a beautiful German Shepherd named Carie and turn the dog over to her. (One reason she may have done this is that Ms. Perry herself would not be eligible to adopt an adult dog as it would put her over the county's pet limit law.) Ms. Perry reports having had the dog put down within 24 hours, for highly suspect reasons. The veterinary "bill" initially provided is insubstantial (at best) and Ms. Perry refused to provide the veterinarian's name. She said that the dog's body has been cremated, preventing a necropsy from being done by another veterinarian to provide independent confirmation of Ms. Perry's claims. (If the dog had truly been in very bad shape having a necropsy done by an independent party would have provided proof of the dog's condition.)

Pattern of obsession with the dogs

Ms. Perry sent e-mails with photos of Carrie taken on several different days, including her day of her arrival at the shelter. These seem to indicate a level of obsession with the dog that culminated in having someone come in to adopt the dog on her behalf, then drugging the dog and having her euthanized. (See attached images.)

There are other animals at the shelter that Ms. Perry had become fixated on over the past couple of months. When the animals are adopted, she has claimed (verbally to more than one individual) that Nevada Humane Society is hiding these animals from her.

One such dog was another German Shepherd named Tucker who Ms. Perry was very interested in. This dog had a tumor that was removed in our clinic. Ms. Perry was convinced that the dog had cancer and should have been euthanized. Dr. Kostecki said that he was able to remove all of the tumor and the biopsy result came back as benign. (Copy included.)

Carrie's condition

- Our experienced staff has certified that the dog was healthy when she left the building.
- We have video and still photos of Carrie as she appeared on the City Critters local cable television show just prior to the adoption, in which she is alert, happy, and walks without any difficulty. (Photo enclosed, copy of DVD available upon request.)
 - Should Carie actually have become ill, our adoption agreement, verbal instructions, and new pet guide all advise adopters to contact NHS if they have difficulties or any medical issues within the first two weeks. Ms. Perry claims that she made a call to NHS, but no one received a call or voice mail message. (Copies of these documents are available upon request.)
- Carie's original surrender questionnaire, from her owner who had her for two years, describes a dog who is; "well mannered, active, sensitive, good with other dogs, good with children, Anxious to please, rides well in cars, lets the owner trim her nails, comes when called, loved food, fetch and riding in cars, and lets you take toys and food." Carie was also trained to respond to commands in German. Additionally the former owner wrote that Carie's favorite activity was: "Running at the park. She likes to cuddle and loves to run around." The only medical condition they reported: blindness. Carie had cataracts and while she was slowly losing her eye sight, she still had some vision. (Copy attached.)

Ms. Perry's statements about Carie

- In some of her writing Ms. Perry states that the dog was "kennel crazy," but this was not the case, Carie had not even been in the shelter for very long. She was in the shelter for a total of 20 days. She was a popular dog with the volunteers and got a good deal of attention. (Copy attached.)
- In some communications Ardena states that Carie had bloody stool and that this indicated that the dog had a thyroid tumor. There was no evidence of bloody stool or a tumor during the time Carie spent at the shelter. The most common reasons for bloody stool are stress (such as a change in the dogs environment), or intestinal parasites, which are easy and inexpensive to treat. (Copy attached.)
- Ms. Perry complains that Carie was barking. Ms Perry had left the dog out in the back yard all night.
 As Carrie was used to being a house pet she was probably barking to be let in and to get some
 attention. (Copy attached.)
- Animal Services was reportedly called out to retrieve Carie for Ms. Perry after the dog escaped twice
 from her yard. It is difficult to understand how a dog so sick that euthanasia was the only option for
 her (as Perry has stated) could go over or break through a 6' fence, as Perry's own writing indicates
 (the explanation has changed over time). We were also told that Carie chased a rabbit during one of
 her escapes.

Veterinary records

The judge ordered Ms, Perry to provide the vet records to the court and to NHS. (Copy attached.) The records state that:

- Ms Perry was counseled: "Any dog will be apprehensive, fearful, an anxious entering a new environment." They added that if necessary that Clomicalm, might help the dog, a drug which would help to calm the dog, during the transition period.
- "Dr. Kusick strongly recommended returning the dog to NHS." The same vet further offered to write a letter "to aide in better placement of the dog."
- "Owner thinks euthanasia is the kindest and only option." Yet further in the notes the vet recommends four possible courses of action, of which euthanasia is only one.
- Ms. Perry told the vet that she gave Librium every two hours the night before.
- That the dog had an enlarged spleen followed by; "due to drug Librium?" and weakness in the hind legs which the vet indicates was "drug (Librium) induced."

Comment: Librium is a controlled substance which should not be administered to people or animals for whom it has not been prescribed. Other veterinarians who reviewed these records indicated that indeed these symptoms, which Ms. Perry gave as an excuse to have Carie euthanized, could have been brought on by an overdoes of Librium.

The vet records state that the 12 mls of euthanasia solution were administered.

Comment: In an earlier e-mail which Ms. Perry claimed included a "redacted copy" of the veterinary receipt the amount of 100 mls was given. This is enough euthanize a horse. (Copy attached.)

Ms. Perry signed the euthanasia authorization, though she was not the legal owner of the dog. The legal owner's name is penned in above Ardena Perry's.

Comment: To date we have not been able to obtain the original copy form the vet clinic to ensure that the owner's signature was on the original euthanasia form. NHS has now retained counsel to subpoena these original records. The adopter stated on her application that her vet clinic is Klaich Animal Hospital, yet the dog was taken to Ms. Perry's veterinarian. (Copy attached.)

Other veterinarians commented that the detailed nature of the veterinary notes, which are far beyond what is customary, probably indicates that the veterinarian and staff anticipated that Ms. Perry would be a difficult client and/or would be creating a larger issue out of this case.

Though the judge did not request it and we did not authorize it, the medical records had added notes and explanations apparently from Ms. Perry or her lawyer. As one might expect, these added notes attempt to mitigate some of the damaging information in the veterinary records. (Copy attached.)

In closing

While I believe that it would be perfectly legitimate to ask WCRAS to investigate the death of Carie as a potential case of animal cruelty in that the vet records seem to indicate that Carrie was given an overdose of a controlled substance, all we are asking is that Ms. Perry be removed from the list of approved foster homes for WCRAS.

Respectfully,

Bonney Brown **Executive Director** Nevada Humane Society April 17, 2008

Roderic A Carucci 702 Plumas St. Reno, NV 89509

Dear Mr. Carucci,

I have probably included more information than you require, but in keeping with the request on the court order I have sent you all the information we have from our records.

Please find enclosed the following:

A copy of the records from Ardena Perry regarding "Carie".

The signed euthanasia release.

A copy of the invoice.

A copy of an E-mail that she gave our hospital.

A copy of a card she drop off at our office regarding "Carie".

If you need any additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Cal R. Williams, D.V.M.

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File of Ardens Perry's Record rage 1 of 3

ardena perry

"ardena perry" <ricknbaby@lanset.com> <ricknbaby@lanset.com>; "me on hotmair" <ardena1985@hotmail.com>

Friday, November 02, 2007 11:07 PM Sent:

carie intake them.jpg; carrie on the day of her arrival by me.jpg; carey portrait for adoption announcement.jpg Carie, a very sad story Attach:

Subject:

This is a redacted copy of the bill for Carie's Euthanasia, The dispensing Veterinarian will contact you with medical details if he feels it is in order. No person is seeking compensation for any of these medical expenses, nor is there a request for a refund due do the severity of Carie's condition. The owner accepts full responsibility for the expenses. The dog was adopted by Susan Selander on October 31, 2007. Carrie had difficulty walking to the car, which we attributed to kennel atrophy from lack of exercise, I had accompanied Susan, in case the dog was resusan Searcher on October 51, 2007. Carrie had omicinity wanting to the ear, which we aimboted to kerinel adopting from tack of exercise, in fact accompliance of the object was familiar with me due to regular visits through her gate at NHS. I got in the back seat with her end she curled up on my lap (Carie not Susan). She was badly matted and stunk horribly, Susan had called to say we were coming to pick her up, so the filthy condition was a bit surprising. The smell of urine was overpowering. & by the time we got home my lap was soaked. I had agreed to transition Carie to "civilian life" due to her blindness and have socialized many adoptees in the past, so we took Carie directly to my home on Goodwin Rd. She stept all the way to my house. Upon arrival we walked her up and down about three house each way. That really were her out and so she went in the side garden for a nap. When she awoke in about one hour she was of course quite anxious, so I walked her a few doors and brushed her a bit, then placed her back in the side garden. Of course the anxiety returned and I know it is a slow process to get through, but we were ready to work through it; Susan offered a wonderful home, it's just Carrie needed some extra help. When ever I would leave she would really how, with the understanding of my neighbors; we agreed to a 10 minute howl and then I would give reassures and start again. Carle drank a tremendous amount of water, I filled a small plastic wading pool to ensure she would not run out., she stood in the pool, almost as if her pads hurt. My old shepherd used to do that after a hike, stand in his pool, I made an appointment with the groomer for 3:30 the following day to see what was under all that mess, the concern was hot spots more than good looks but a trip to the spa is good for a girls spirits. Carla (groomer) was quite excited since I had told her a friend would be getting the little shepherd I had had been campaigning. We had pictures plastered everywhere. Susan had been interested as well and had gone to see her, then Carle was adopted and I took down the pictures. Shortly Carle was returned for animal aggression, I saw her on Petharbor and Susan said lets get her. Susan's other dog is old and lives in another part of the tri level house so they would not be meeting. Carle was to be Susan's companion, her husband travels frequently and the other dog always goes with him. It seemed the perfect match.

Once darkness fell Carie began to how uncontrollably, I brought her in the house she wanted out, I put her out she chewed through the fence, patched the fence, felt pretty secure with the

weakness she wouldn't be a jumper, but somehow she did scramble over the 6 foot fence, she didn't go anywhere, she just wanted over the fence. Her fear of confinement was horrific. The end result of that night was I put her in the side garden and I slept on the ground out in the yard with her, she continued to how, but I was there and she did go into her shelter and I slept in front of it. The next morning we began the short walk regimen again, Carie had met several people and seemed comfortable except for children, they made her nervous, perhaps her blindness...... Instead of getting a bit of strength with small walks Carie continued to stumble and fall. We would rest on the curb for a bit and then Carie was off again, but never far, At 8 in bilindress......Instead of getting a bit of strength with small walks Cerie continued to stumble and fall. We would rest on the curb for a bit and then Carle was off again, but never far. At 8 in the morn the vet seemed a wise choice, I called for an immediate appointment and they got us in at 10:15, we were there for 2 hours, Carle was very tired and sleepy so she rested while we worried about her. Susan and I felt that Eurhanasia was the kindest thing because she couldn't walk and with all the howling Susan just couldn't let her live out her days in pain. The physical limitations made a mental rehab unlikely, normally good healthy exercise and socialization will take care of the mental problems but this girl was not able to exercise. A real catch 22. We left the dog with the vet for 3 more hours for his evaluation, he loved her and thought she was a lovely dog and was young to put down if we had a choice. When we retuned late that afternoon his assessment for physical recovery was poor, she had a spinal degeneration that was progressive, neuropathies of some type that caused her to drag her feet and the fur was all torn off the tops of her feet from stumbling. Her spleen was quite enlarged. Her gums were bleeding a bit when she chewed her ball, and her health was not going to improve. She was in a deteriorating state. And of course she was blind. He felt her like expectancy would be very brief and did not feel she would be adoptable if we returned her to you. No children, no pets because she was so ill she would become a victim if she had to share a space, she required strong permanent sedatives to adjust to life, and that would probably not be possible because of her medical condition prevented the normal interacting one does to counter act behavior issues. His decision was that she was not in a suitable condition to be adopted. Susan, the owner, felt the humane thing to do was end Caries pain, she could not walk more than 20 feet and was not going to get better. I will not say she could not run 35 feet on a

From the desk of Ardena Perry.

Date: 11/01/2007 Page: 1

Patient CARIE Breed: GERMAN SHEPARD Color. Tricolor OhoG

Age:2 Sex:Fe Tag: Weight

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I.

Service Item Euthanasia Injection z- PentobarbiEuthasol 100ml Communal Cremation

Price 61.99		
0.00		134.00
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61.99 0.00 134.00		
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Thank You

We appreciate your patronage and the referral of your family and friends.









Pyramid Veterinary Hospital 2405 Pyramid Way Sparks, Nevada 89431 (775) - 356-8323

Euthanasia Release Form

Date:

11/01/2007

Ardena Perry 4660 Goodwin Rd. Sparks NV 89436

1667

Acc. No: Phone:

(775)626-0137

SIGNATURE OF OWNER: Widena

Patient: CARIE

Species: CANINE

Breed: GERMAN SHEPARD Color: Tricolor

Color: Tricolor

Doctor: Cal R. Williams, DVM

Age: Sex:

FΕ

Tag: Weight:

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AUTHORIZATION TO PERFORM EUTHANASIA

As owner or duly authorized agent of the owner for the above named animal, I hereby consent to and order euthanasia to be performed on the same for humane reasons. I also authorize the veterinarian to dispose of the remains in accordance with hospital policy.

I do hereby release Pyramid Veterinary Hospital, their staff and representative from any and all liability for euthanizing and handling the arrangements for the above named animal.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, this animal has not bitten any person during the fifteen days preceding this date.

Please handle the final disposition of the remains of my pet by:

Please Initial your preference

Private Cremation: Your pet will be cremated individually and the ashes will be returned to our hospital. You will be notified when they arrive.

[] Optional Paw Print by the cremation company

Communal Cremation: Your pet will be cremated with a few other animals and the ashes will be buried in a non-visitable grave site.

Non-Cremation Disposal: Remains will be released to the Lockwood Landfill for disposal.

Self-Directed Disposition: Pets remains to be taken by owner or owners representative.

[] Optional Paw Print: Clay print taken at our hospital that will need to be baked at home.

All bills to be paid prior to the euthanasia of the animal

DATE: 11-01-01

5 present/ Communal cremation//no pauprint



Pyramid Veterinary Hospital 2405 Pyramid Way Sparks, Nevada 89431 (775) - 356-8323

Account: 1667 Invoice: 76273 Date: 11/01/2007

Weight:

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Ardena PerryPatient: CARIEAge:4660 Goodwin Rd.Species: CANINESex:Sparks NV 89436Breed: GERMAN SHEPARDTag:

Breed: GERMAN SHEPARD Color: Tricolor

Doctor: Cal R. Williams, DVM

Phone: (775)626-0137

Date	Service/Item	Qty	Price	Amount
11/01/2007	Euthanasia Injection	1.00	61.99	61.99
11/01/2007	Z- Pentobarb/Euthasol 100ml	1.00	0.00	0.00
11/01/2007	Communal Cremation	1.00	134.00	134.00
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		Net Invoice		195.99



Because 9 am Body And Spirit...... 9 thank you. Because 9 am Free ...



Ehank you. Co be in pain, alone on concrete Is not living, I am real, and You honored that.

Before D came to see you,
D went swimming in a pool of nice
warm water, D got a brush and a
few short walks, such as D could.
We played ball in the garage, and
mostly D slept. D slept relaxed,
not tightly curled and it was good.
Thank you.



Lax Carries friends

From: Benjamin Johnson

To: shannonmillard123@gmail.com

Cc: J. Daniel Yu; Record Requests; Lori Bagwell; Clay Johnson; jbryant@nevadahumanesociety.org; Animal -

Advisory Board

Subject: RE: FOIA Request

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023 4:46:39 PM

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Good afternoon,

This represents Carson City's response to your public records request made June 1, 2023 via email requesting documents related to the Nevada Humane Society and Carson City animal shelter. The responses to your request are listed below in blue.

Please note, upon information and belief, the Nevada Humane Society ("NHS") is a non-profit charitable organization and is not a "governmental entity" as that term is defined as NRS 239.005(5) and therefore not subject to the requirements of NRS Chapter 239. However, Carson City defers to the Nevada Humane Society and its own legal counsel for any further response to your request.

1. All written records listing all euthanized dogs at your Animal Control impound from January 1, 2018, to the present, and the reason for each euthanization.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

2. All written records representing standards of care of dogs in your custody that have been promulgated by the Nevada Human Society from the inception of the Nevada Humane Society's management of Carson City Animal Control

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

3. All written records of dogs you have euthanized at your facility that have been denominated "dangerous" under the laws of Nevada from January 1, 2018, to the present.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

- 4. All written record of you dogs you have euthanized at your facility that have been denominated "vicious" under the laws of Nevada from January 1, 2018, to the present. Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.
- 5. All written records of dogs denominated dangerous or vicious that you have safely delivered into the care of a rescue, rehabilitation professional, sanctuary, either **outside** of the state of Nevada or **inside** the geographical boundaries of the state of Nevada.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

6. All written records of your review and disciplinary procedures of all personnel at the Carson City Animal Control.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

7. All written records of your vetting and investigating procedures that you regularly use in your hiring decisions, including criminal background checks of all employees at the Carson City Animal Shelter.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

8. All written records of external review procedures of the performance of all individuals

employed at Animal Control by the Board of Supervisors in Carson City.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

9. All written records of external review procedures of the performance of all individuals employed at Animal Control by the Nevada Humane Society.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

10. All written records that detail whether any employee of Carson City Animal Control has ever neglected, harmed, or abused a dog impounded at the Animal Control, either by internal Animal Control Standards, Nevada Human Society standards, or the legal standards of the laws of Nevada pertaining to animal cruelty.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

11. All written records, missives, emails, or any other written records that in any way pertain to the professional standards of licensed veterinarians, animal psychologists, or any other certified professional that Animal Control systematically uses to determine the psychological and emotional health of the dogs it impounds. Please indicate if you do not use any national or statewide professional standards to determine the mental wellbeing and psychological health of the dogs Animal Control impounds.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

12. All written records that demonstrate affirmative steps Animal Control takes to specifically protect the mental and psychological wellbeing of the dogs it impounds, for example, loving, kind interaction between Animal Control workers or their proxies and these dogs.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

13. All written records that show evidence of correlations between the number of days of impoundment of dogs without daily exercise and their measurable degree of suffering, physical health, psychological health, and overall wellness. For example, in increments of 50 days impounded, please provide written records of your assessment of the dog's well-being, both physical and psychological. Please provide records of each dog's disposition after such impoundment. Please provide for:

0 – 50 days 51 – 100 days 101 - 150 days 151 days – 200 days Greater than 200 days.

Please provide written communications, logs, emails, and all other written records demonstrating concern for the wellbeing of dogs under your care, within the guidelines of the Nevada Humane Society's mission.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

14. All written records that demonstrate affirmative steps that Animal Control takes to specifically protect the physical wellbeing of the dogs it impounds, for example, daily walks and exercise.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

15. All written records that show the deterioration of the mental well-being of the dogs Animal Control has impounded since January 1, 2018.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

16. All written records showing how Animal Control specifically implements the mission and standards of the Nevada Humane Society for dogs it impounds. This includes internal memos, records of meetings, written policies, and all records showing clear, concerted efforts to follow the guidelines of the Nevada Human Society.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

17. All written records that demonstrate Animal Control's concern for a specific, impounded dog that is obviously suffering, against the written published dictates of the mission of the Nevada Humane Society.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

18. All written records listing and detailing the names of sanctuaries, rescues, rehabilitation organizations, re-training organizations that Animal Control works with to implement its affirmative duty to protect the mental and physical wellbeing of the dogs it impounds.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have

documents responsive to this request.

19. All written records that address whether the standard of care for dogs at Animal Control is different for dogs denominated "vicious," dogs denominated "dangerous," dogs denominated

"potentially dangerous," or dogs not denominated at all other than as "owner surrenders," "strays" and the like. If the standard of care is different for a particular group, please list your reasons and policies for the different treatment.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

20. All written records showing affirmative efforts to employ a certified and licensed trainer to work with dogs that have been incarcerated for dangerous or vicious labels. All written records listing certified and/or licensed trainers or rehabilitation experts that Animal Control regularly works with to implement the mission of the Nevada Humane Society.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

21. All written records that demonstrate good faith efforts to allow owners of seized dogs to have meaningful, kind visitation and interaction with their legal owners, no matter the designation of the dog.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

22. All written records pertaining to your euthanization of my dog, Bentley. These include all emails between the NHS and AC, records and dates of all meetings regarding the NHS and AC plan to kill my dog, and records pertaining to your efforts to place my dog with a dog trainer, a shelter, a rescue, a sanctuary, or any other like kind organization. Please include names of these organizations, contact information, address, and the name of the contract person you spoke with.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

23. All written records demonstrating your care and concern that your impounding of my dog in virtual isolation was harming my dog psychologically and physically.

Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. NHS may have documents responsive to this request.

24. All written records pertaining to meetings between the Board of Supervisors and the Carson City Animal Control, or with Judge Armstrong who presided over court matters, or with Ben Johnson, Attorney.

This request is vague as it is not clear what is meant when you state "meetings between the Board of Supervisors and Animal Control, or with Judge Armstrong who presided over court matters, or with Ben Johnson, Attorney."

There were no meetings between the Board of Supervisors, Carson City Animal Control, Judge Armstrong and/or Ben Johnson related to the case involving Bentley and Shannon Millard. Therefore, there are no written records of any meetings. The Carson City Animal Control or Judge Armstrong may have appeared before the Board of Supervisors during a public meeting on other topics, but none related to Bentley. Therefore, this request is unclear and as written Carson City is not in possession of any records responsive to this request. If you want to clarify this request or provide more information about what "meetings" you are referring, it may change our response. Please feel free to clarify if you believe there are documents responsive to this request.

Thank you,
Ben Johnson
Benjamin R. Johnson
Senior Deputy District Attorney
Carson City District Attorney's Office
885 E. Musser Street, Suite 2030
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 887-2070
Fax: 887-2129

bjohnson@carson.org

This

From: B.J. Perez

To: Animal - Advisory Board

Subject: ** Comment 5/15 meeting

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 4:00:49 PM

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Good Afternoon.

I have a bad sore throat, so I need to submit my comments via email.

I am a member of the public, although I do own a business and have heard much criticism about NHS.

Our shelter is about the welfare of our animals. The public was kept in the dark, so NHS transparency is long overdue, and absolutely necessary. It's a relief that an adivsory board exists, or I question that anything would change in what I hope is on an Emergency basis. And all information needs to be available to the public.I

I've been an NHS donor for many years, and it took the October 2022 Cat Panleukopenia outbreak to see how inept the NHS director Hall was when he said on TV "we learned alot about vaccinations". I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Cats suffered and died, and no cats were taken in during the outbreak. And the head of NHS is 'learning' on the job.

this should never have happened. I'm glad he resigned, but is he the fruit of a poison tree?

Drastic change is needed NOW, and take effect immediately. not next week, or when someone is available.

Good idea - to call back positive former employees that want to help, and maybe weed out some bad apples.

NHS is currently a stain on our shelter's past reputation, is one resignation enough? The NHS board had to suspect trouble with so many resignations of NHS Senior staff and 6 Veterinarians...

NHS has had problems for a couple years, and the NHS Board was complicit in the current sitation.

The Director (Hall) should have been released much sooner, that job is not a 'trainee' position.

I agree that the NHS board needs new members with animal welfare experience. I am trying to be positive on the NHS board member changes, but I remain skeptical for now as its yet to be seen if they accept the advice of others, or stagnate some more.

Most of the public thought NHS was the same as it always was, a safe and caring place for our community's animals.

NHS used to be the shining light of what other shelters could acheive - and now we're making the national news in a negative way. Bonney Brown was not only a trusted

caretaker of our community's animals, she got things done.

when going in the shelter (in the past) you could see & feel a positive environment, dogs being walked, everyone, dogs and staff had a bounce in their step. Those days are gone. Bonney Brown is sorely missed, and needed more than ever.

I am happy that she is involved, why cant we bring her back?

I have trust in WCRAS, they are doing the best they can. Director Shyanne Schull is a truely needed asset in this crisis.

She has great ideas and is in the trenches. The public wants our shelter back in the hands of professionals in animal care, and people that have a heart, and truely care about animals.we need help from people with experience and proven results, no more experiments or trainees.

New NHS Board President Ray Gonzalez promised 1,000% comittment, I hope he means it.

The public expects nothing less, with the situation we are now in.

The public has misconceptions because NHS has hidden things from us, and the animals have suffered at the hands of those entrusted with their care. All of them, Dogs, Cats, and small animals.

Foundation Grants in the millions will disappear if NHS doesnt perform, and put the ANIMALS FIRST.

That is their job. The shelter belongs to the people, not 12 people in a boardroom at NHS.

- ** These things are at the top of the my list & many people I have spoken to:
- ** unnecessary euthania when did that start...?
- ** dogs drugged most who probably dont actually need medication. And others sent to a new home with no tapered dose
- ** Dogs in kennels all day with 10 minutes in a yard. I can't imagine the lonliness of these dogs.
- ** Basic care not provided. Sanitation not up to par. this is ridiculous
- ** Euthanasia decisions made by unqualified staff. This happened to me personally. I wanted to adopt a pit that I visited for for 5 days, he was a good dog. He was in a back cage, and I would sit there at the front of the kennel and talk to him he attentively listened:) he hadn't bit anyone, but he didnt pass the "NHS" behavior test. (?)

I pressed the issue, and left messages for callback, and never got one response from anyone at NHS.

When I went in to NHS to follow-up the next day, he was 'gone'.

Art W tried to help me, but a couple people made the choice on this dog life's, that didnt know much about him.

I've had Dobie's all my life, and my previous Pit/Lab mix 'Buddy' lived for 13 years (my parott would ride on his collar), I had no kids at home, and was willing to sign any waiver they wanted. I wasn't even given the courtesy of a phone call from anyone at NHS. I was sad, as I spent alot of time with "my" dog, and I saw who he really was.

How many minutes did NHS spend with this dog? probably none.

- ** Community Cats in the 90 day plan presented of returning them to their homes in the community... how long have these cats been at NHS? do they even still have a 'home' community anymore?
- ** NHS staffers not getting raises, while Senior level NHS staff raises were significant & not deserved.

The NHS shelter staff is the true heartbeat of NHS success. They connect with the animals, they 'see' whats going on & talk to potential adopters on the floor, and a positive attitude is a must. so is a love for animals. They deserve a raise, make it happen.

The toxic atmosphere at NHS took awhile to get this bad, and swift changes will be best. not wait around for NHS to 'do something'. And when a donor gives NHS money for the animals, its supposed to be 'used' for the animals, and not anything else. I'll be waiting for the positive changes, and have alittle faith.

Thank you for your time, and for caring about the animals. you are greatly appreciated.

B.J. Perez 775-750-3495 cell

From the desk of Shannon Millard 3450 Otha St. Carson City, NV. 89706 (775)720-6946

May 29, 2023

Re: Investigation of Carson City Animal Services (CCAS) Nevada Humane Society (NHS) and Other governmental entities to be later named

To: Carson City Board of Supervisors, WCRAS Advisory Board, CCAS, NHS Board of Directors/Interim CEO, Washoe County Mayor Hillary Schieve and Carson City Mayor Lori Bidwell

It has come to my attention that there has been, and is, an ongoing investigation of the Nevada Humane Society, and perhaps its relationship with the Carson City Animal Control. I respectfully request that you add my case to this matter.

My dog Bentley and I are the victims of grossly violent and harmful behavior of the Nevada Humane Society and the Carson City Animal Control. I also believe that the court actions concerning this matter have some procedural and substantive irregularities that ended in the murder of my dog, and a lifelong trauma for me. It is fair to say that justice was not served in this matter.

I intend to pursue this matter as long as it takes to expose the unethical and illegal behavior of all parties who contributed to this grossly violent abuse of the judicial system, the Nevada Humane Society, and the Carson Animal Control. I am not going to let this rest.

I understand that there have been other complaints, but in no small measure is mine the least of them. I respectfully request an investigation of what these parties did to me and to an innocent dog, my life companion, who is now dead. This should never have happened and could have easily been avoided.

I respectfully request that you initiate an investigation, and that you reply to me in a timely way. I reiterate that I am going to take all legal actions, including investigation, legal counsel, mediation, and the media to get to the bottom of this.

Sincerely,

Ms. Shannon Millard 05.29.23

Formal FOIA Request

From Shannon Millard 3450 Otha St., Carson City, NV 89706 shannonmillard123@gmail.com (775)720-6946

FOIA request Set #1

To:

Clay Johnson, Shelter Manager Carson City Animal Control Nevada Humane Society 549 Airport Rd Carson City, NV. 89701

Carson City Board of Supervisors 201 N Carson Street, Suite 2 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Emails to:

Ischuette@carson.org
cjohnson@nevadahumanesociety.org
mwhite@carson.org
aginfo@ag.nv.gov
Ibagwell@carson.org
sgiomi@carson.org
Ischuette@carson.org
mayor@reno.gov
advisoryboard@washoecounty.gov
jbryant@nevadahumnesociety.org

To: Mr. Clay Johnson, Carson City Board of psupervisors and Nevada Humane Society:

Under the Nevada Open Records Act § 239 et seq., I request electronic, or written copies of the following public records of the following information. I request electronic records because they are generally easier and less time-consuming to provide, and will therefore, be less of a burden on your offices.

- **1.** All written records listing all euthanized dogs at your Animal Control impound from January 1, 2018, to the present, and the reason for each euthanization.
- 2. All written records representing standards of care of dogs in your custody that have been promulgated by the Nevada Human Society from the inception of the Nevada Humane Society's management of Carson City Animal Control
- **3.** All written records of dogs you have euthanized at your facility that have been denominated "dangerous" under the laws of Nevada from January 1, 2018, to the present.
- **4.** All written record of you dogs you have euthanized at your facility that have been denominated "vicious" under the laws of Nevada from January 1, 2018, to the present.
- **5.** All written records of dogs denominated dangerous or vicious that you have safely delivered into the care of a rescue, rehabilitation professional, sanctuary, either **outside** of the state of Nevada or **inside** the geographical boundaries of the state of Nevada.
- **6.** All written records of your review and disciplinary procedures of all personnel at the Carson City Animal Control.
- 7. All written records of your vetting and investigating procedures that you regularly use in your hiring decisions, including criminal background checks of all employees at the Carson City Animal Shelter.
- **8.** All written records of external review procedures of the performance of all individuals employed at Animal Control by the Board of Supervisors in Carson City.
- **9.** All written records of external review procedures of the performance of all individuals employed at Animal Control by the Nevada Humane Society.
- **10.** All written records that detail whether any employee of Carson City Animal Control has ever neglected, harmed, or abused a dog impounded at the Animal Control, either by internal Animal Control Standards, Nevada Human Society standards, or the legal standards of the laws of Nevada pertaining to animal cruelty.

- **11.** All written records, missives, emails, or any other written records that in any way pertain to the professional standards of licensed veterinarians, animal psychologists, or any other certified professional that Animal Control systematically uses to determine the psychological and emotional health of the dogs it impounds. Please indicate if you do not use any national or statewide professional standards to determine the mental wellbeing and psychological health of the dogs Animal Control impounds.
- **12.** All written records that demonstrate affirmative steps Animal Control takes to specifically protect the mental and psychological wellbeing of the dogs it impounds, for example, loving, kind interaction between Animal Control workers or their proxies and these dogs.
- 13. All written records that show evidence of correlations between the number of days of impoundment of dogs without daily exercise and their measurable degree of suffering, physical health, psychological health, and overall wellness. For example, in increments of 50 days impounded, please provide written records of your assessment of the dog's well-being, both physical and psychological. Please provide records of each dog's disposition after such impoundment. Please provide for:

```
0 – 50 days
51 – 100 days
101 - 150 days
151 days – 200 days
Greater than 200 days.
```

Please provide written communications, logs, emails, and all other written records demonstrating concern for the wellbeing of dogs under your care, within the guidelines of the Nevada Humane Society's mission.

- **14.** All written records that demonstrate affirmative steps that Animal Control takes to specifically protect the physical wellbeing of the dogs it impounds, for example, daily walks and exercise.
- **15.** All written records that show the deterioration of the mental well-being of the dogs Animal Control has impounded since January 1, 2018.
- **16.** All written records showing how Animal Control specifically implements the mission and standards of the Nevada Humane Society for dogs it impounds. This includes internal memos, records of meetings, written policies, and all records showing clear, concerted efforts to follow the guidelines of the Nevada Human Society.
- **17.** All written records that demonstrate Animal Control's concern for a specific, impounded dog that is obviously suffering, against the written published dictates of the mission of the Nevada Humane Society.

- **18.** All written records listing and detailing the names of sanctuaries, rescues, rehabilitation organizations, re-training organizations that Animal Control works with to implement its affirmative duty to protect the mental and physical wellbeing of the dogs it impounds.
- 19. All written records that address whether the standard of care for dogs at Animal Control is different for dogs denominated "vicious," dogs denominated "dangerous," dogs denominated "potentially dangerous," or dogs not denominated at all other than as "owner surrenders," "strays" and the like. If the standard of care is different for a particular group, please list your reasons and policies for the different treatment.
- 20. All written records showing affirmative efforts to employ a certified and licensed trainer to work with dogs that have been incarcerated for dangerous or vicious labels. All written records listing certified and/or licensed trainers or rehabilitation experts that Animal Control regularly works with to implement the mission of the Nevada Humane Society.
- **21.** All written records that demonstrate good faith efforts to allow owners of seized dogs to have meaningful, kind visitation and interaction with their legal owners, no matter the designation of the dog.
- **22.** All written records pertaining to your euthanization of my dog, Bentley. These include all emails between the NHS and AC, records and dates of all meetings regarding the NHS and AC plan to kill my dog, and records pertaining to your efforts to place my dog with a dog trainer, a shelter, a rescue, a sanctuary, or any other like kind organization. Please include names of these organizations, contact information, address, and the name of the contract person you spoke with.
- **23.** All written records demonstrating your care and concern that your impounding of my dog in virtual isolation was harming my dog psychologically and physically.
- **24.** All written records pertaining to meetings between the Board of Supervisors and the Carson City Animal Control, or with Judge Armstrong who presided over court matters, or with Ben Johnson, Attorney.

We request a waiver of all fees in the disclosure of the requested information because it is in the public interest and will contribute significantly to the public's understanding of the care that Animal Control provides to the dogs it impounds. This is clearly in the public interest because you are now investigating other complaints against these parties.

In the case that you do not think these records are in the public interest, please indicate the charge for providing such records for each numbered item above. Please also state clearly your reasoning for concluding that these records are not in the public interest

If access to the records we are requesting will take longer than the published statutory time limit, please contact me with information about when we can expect copies or the ability to inspect and copy the requested records, and why there is a delay.

If you deny part any of this request, please cite each specific legal exemption you believe justifies the refusal to release the information for each numbered item. We recognize that you may consider this a burden on your office, but you are a governmental entity and have an affirmative legal duty to provide these records. This is provided to citizens of the laws of the state of Nevada.

I reserve all its legal rights to obtain these records under the FOIA laws of the state of Nevada and the federal laws that secure these rights.

Sincerely,

Shannon Millard (775)720-6946 Carson City, Nevada From: Rene" Johnson To: Animal - Advisory Board Cirone, Mandy; Schull, Shyanne Cc: Subject: Humane Society meeting

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023 11:58:15 AM

Importance:

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

To the Washoe County Animal Advisory Board,

I have met most of you worked with you on animal issues over the years. I look forward to, in the near future, meeting those of you I haven't met yet.

I just came across the meeting agenda, in my email, this morning, and have been following the news, regarding the Nevada Humane Society.

I would like to add to the record that I have visited the Humane Society on Longley Lane, over the last several months. When I arrived, there was a huge easel shaped sign, on the sidewalk, leading up to the doors that reads 'Naptime is from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., which I thought was odd. Once in, I went to the front desk to let them know I was going to go visit the cats and dogs (not knowing the current restrictions). I was told the public was no longer allowed to 'just go' visit the animals. I was then handed a binder, with Xeroxed pictures of the available animals, and told I could sit in one of the 2 blue chairs available for the public. At this point, I was really irritated and asked why it was now set up this way? I was then told by one of the girls at front desk, in a snotty tone, that it 'stresses the animal out too much to visit with them'. I then said I thought that this was unacceptable and that people want to visit with the animals, which gives them the best chance of being adopted, not look through a bunch of copied pictures in a binder.

- 1.) Why can't the public visit the animals? If it is because of stress, where is the credible research for that?
- 2.) Why is there a 'nap time' sign? If the public isn't 'allowed' to visit the animals there is no need for nap time. The animals are already doing that! This seems like an excuse, another barrier, to keeping the public away from the animals. In the past, there was always a roped off area (section of
 - building) for animals who weren't ready to meet the public for whatever reason.
- 3.) I have adopted from the Reno Humane Society and donate money from time to time. I have friends who donate money on a monthly basis, who are also not happy with the way it's is currently operating.

People want to see/visit the animals again. It needs to be fully open to the public again!

I look forward to hearing from you soon and thank you for looking into all of these issues!

Rene' Johnson

Puppy Mill Free Reno and Sparks

From: mike <drtroutmj@charter.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 3:10 AM

To: Animal - Advisory Board <AdvisoryBoard@washoecounty.gov>

Subject: Your duties and responsibilities

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or

open **attachments** unless you are sure the content is safe.]

The Degradation of Animal Services

From the halcyon days of the 1960s when the hard charging John Marquez, Reno's first dog-catcher, chased an Afghan hound through the streets and back-yards of southwest Reno for hours until the dog died from exhaustion; only to find that it belonged to prominent Reno attorney Charles Springer

who extracted six figures and Marquez's job

To the intrepid 1980s, when Matt Marquez (his son) and Pat Fye, who would both latter become Sparks Police Officers, would capture the new breed of vicious pit bulls with nothing more than a six foot aluminum pole with a wire loop attached

To the pathetic present, where Washoe County Animal Services, having been shorn of any serious enforcement powers, can only offer its citizens the limp and flaccid response of harsh warnings, finger wagging and an administrative hearing that is so weak that it takes over six months to get one

and only results in a \$50 fine that is optional and unenforceable (shhhh, don't tell the offenders.) So, if a 150 lb. vicious pit bull breaks through your fence in an attempt to kill your neighbor's dog, and you are the resident of a group home for Developmentally Disabled women, you can be terrorized for days as the menacing dog waits at your sliding glass door growling for blood. Oh, Animal Services will respond eventually but can't be bothered to impound the dog, force the renterneighbors

to fix the fence, remove the French bulldog bitch that is his sad but unbelievably lucrative puppy mill, cite the animals owners, check back on the welfare of all involved, update the complainants as to the status of the case, investigate any of the above or just generally do their job. Or if your neighbors dog barks incessantly 24/7, it will take over 6 months to get them into a voluntary hearing that issues civil fines that are unenforceable, meanwhile you're driven out of your mind by months of nuisance barking and the frustration of waiting for a big nothing-burger, courtesy

of a neutered and unresponsive bureaucracy that provides zero feedback on the status of the case to the victims.

All because around 2010, Deputy District Attorney Terry Shay discovered that the thousands of criminal citations issued by animal control officers and handled through Justice Court over the previous decades were all NULL AND VOID. It seems that Washoe County had never trained or given police powers to their officers and were essentially Violating Civil Rights Under Color of Authority, a federal felony, oops! Since then, animal services has had no criminal citation powers and is a toothless hound.

This shocking discovery was the result of a nuisance barking case that strung out for over a year and a defendant that refused to cooperate or comply with anything. When push came to shove, he and his dog walked away with no penalty because of the incompetence and ignorance of management. Ironically, in a concurrent case, the Animal Control Officers contributed to their own neutering by canvassing the neighbors, and finding no-one who would come forward and validate the victim's complaint(fear?), then testified in Justice Court that the victim must therefore be lying! The District

Attorney had to recuse herself and farm out the case to a private attorney because the defendant was a DA's supervisory employee! The judge dismissed the case despite video evidence of the crime and extensive documentation. Thank you sir, may I have another?

And so here we are, a neighborhood that is suffering from PTSD, lack of sleep, terrorist dogs, an inability to be outside and enjoy your property, no peace of mind walking through your own neighborhood for fear of reprisals, fear to go into your own backyard lest a giant pit bull attacks you,

the mind-numbing frustration with a non-responsive bureaucracy and the creeping realization that your government just doesn't give a fuck about you.

Meanwhile, the Director of Animal Services sits by her pool, in her million dollar home, making a quarter million dollar salary on taxpayer money and pities the poor rubes who are forced to live down there in the ghetto with the riff-raff. Nice work if you can get it.

Counselor, how do you spell tort?

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: mike

To: Animal - Advisory Board

Subject: Washoe County Animal Services

Date: Thursday, June 29, 2023 10:28:47 AM

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

The Degradation: Part 2

First, a history lesson.

In 1994, the Nevada prison population was at maximum capacity after a decade of the highest crime rates ever experienced in America, before or since, according to FBI statistics.

The completion of Lovelock Correctional Center and Southern Desert Correctional Center was much anticipated to happen around early 1996.

Caseloads at the Nevada State Division of Parole and Probation had by then increased to double what would be industry standards, to well over 100 parolees and probationers per officer.

Governor Bob Miller sent word to his Head Parole Board Commissioner, Bryn Armstrong, to release every possible inmate that could be justified. He also told his Chief Parole and Probation Officer, John Slansky to make similar efforts to relieve the overcrowding. Both men were beholding to Gov. Miller for their jobs.

Word came down from Chief Slansky to P&P supervisors and officers instructing them to stop arresting parole violators and to stop recommending prison time for defendants awaiting sentencing in District Court. Caseloads ballooned further in this atmosphere of maximum criminal activity and minimum incarceration capacity. Unfit and unworthy prison inmates were released into the community. Undeserving defendants were recommended for probation.

In April 1995, Donald Cameron was released on parole. He had an extensive history of violence, drugs and robbery. So concerning was his history, that he was paroled to the Intensive Supervision Unit for increased monitoring by officers with reduced caseloads. Within one month of parole, Cameron was arrested but allowed to remain free on bail as per the new guidelines coming down from top management. On May 22, 1995 he robbed two bars at gunpoint and fled to a residential area on foot. Officers of the Sparks Police Department responded to search for Cameron. In the dark, Officer Larry Johnson walked past Cameron who was lying on the ground. Cameron shot upward in between the folds of Johnson's bullet-proof vest killing him. Officers then killed Cameron. An investigation ensued, along with a statewide coverup of the malfeasance. Johnson's family sued but ultimately were unsuccessful mostly due to the principle of Qualified Immunity for Police Officers.

THE POINT

The point is that policy decisions made upstream can have large and unforeseen negative ramifications downstream.

If Washoe County Animal Services has adopted a policy of "no-kill" and has inadequate "carrying capacity" to house the excess populations, will their employees slow-walk or worse, neglect to take immediate effective routine action on vicious dogs encountered in the community?

If Animal Services has adopted a policy of civil fines for owners of dogs found to be in violation of county ordinances, will the problems only exacerbate and compound themselves because they take 6 months to resolve and only result in a small civil fine that is essentially unenforceable? Wouldn't it be better to develop effective policy and procedure to address the small but impactful percentage of dogs and owners that fall outside the usual experience?

Wouldn't it be better policy to have the capacity to impound and put down the tiny percentage of dangerous and/or unplaceable/unadoptable dogs, rather than adhere to a rigid unrealistic feel-good policy of "no-kill?"

Wouldn't it be better policy to have some small limited capacity to criminally cite owners who just won't comply with community standards or Washoe County Code despite repeated warnings? Is Animal Services merely recycling problem dogs from one neighborhood to another by insisting on adoption above all else? (Nuisance barker moved from this neighborhood to that one.)

I bet the employees at Animal Services would welcome a streamlined meaningful process that relieves them of the frustration of toothless repetitive policy.

I know the community (who, after all, pay for the bureaucracy and suffer from its impotence) would welcome relief from the chronic problems of nuisance barking, vicious dogs, irresponsible owners and unresponsive government.

Recommendations:

- 1. Adopt a policy of mostly "no kill" and preferably "no kill" based only on carrying capacity, behavior and health of the dog, adoptability and the needs of the community.
- 2. Treat complainants like the victims that they are and keep them apprised of all developments, processes and outcomes in a timely manner, exactly how it's done in all criminal courts in America.
- 3. Single out the 10% most egregious non-compliers for criminal citation and referral to Justice Court through the use of Sheriff's Deputies, exactly as they do it at Washoe County Child Protective Services. Simply have deputies issue citations for Disturbing the Peace, Harboring a Vicious Animal etc.
- 4. Do not, as is done now, combine an unlimited number of offences to be rolled into a single hearing 6 months in the future. They are individual offences and should be treated as such. You don't get to continue speeding unabated after being given a ticket only to have subsequent speeding citations all rolled into the first one. Animal Services shouldn't either.
- 5. Adopt the above Policies and Procedures before some horrific tragedy happens that could have been avoided and you have to live with the knowledge that you knew about the defects in the system and did nothing about it. (like what happened to me and Larry Johnson)

A little about myself. I am a dog lover, dog owner, puppy trainer for Canine Companions, 6th generation Truckee Meadows resident whose family settled here in the 1880s. UNR graduate, retired career law enforcement officer, father, husband, concerned citizen.

Sent from Mail for Windows

Dear Mayor Schreve, Council woman Duerr, and nHS Board members,

First let me say breathall is a nice person-just not cut out for the job of CEO or NHS.

This position should not be taken lightly, and Requires someone with shelter and management experience. Some one who knows animals and their heeds; and some one who knows how to work with and train employees to do the Jobs expected of them—someone with people and animal skills that is a professional packagethat may take some searching. This position is not a political, nor ego driven position.

yours ago the NHS had some major problems and Bonney Brown, Diane Blackership, and Deneice Stevens came in and rehabilitated the Shelters in Reno and Arem City.

Carson City.
We are lucky to have all three still in thearen and willing to come, once again, to help us.

- Due need to re-establish a cordial, working relationship with Animal Services and keep that going. Cheyanne seems to be doing a greatjob.
- 2) when the board says they didn't know there was aproblem that is a huge problem because they have been receiving complaints from past employees and clients for quite some time! what part about many vets and upper management Deaving, and new employees saying they have not been trained properly does the board not understand?? or observe.

Obelieve in term limits, and feel board of Should have term limits @ Be expected to tour the facility once a nonth - talking to vets and employees.

The board is suppose to over see the CEO—
The board is suppose to over see the CEO—
Do your Job!!! Don't Just pad your
resume — put your egos aside, and do your
job. It need be, fire the CEO before an
job. Of need be, fire the CEO before an
enormous problem, like presently, happens!

Do your Job!!

The board should be filled by people who can put their egos, needs, and wants who can put their egos, needs, and wants eside for the sake afthe animals. People aside for the same management, good sense and who have some management, good sense and bund raising skills. Asking alot, but in the fund raising skills. Asking alot, but in the past we have been blessed with some past we have been blessed with some

these animals depend on us to do the right

Too many people worked too hard to get the nHS up and running in a very efficient way—
WHAT Happened?? Over sight, not only aftle
CEO, but the board, is needed. And an
internal audit would be helpful

Animal Services and SPCA all working together for the good of the animals. Thank you becker

From: <u>Jodie Wang</u>

To: nevadahumanesocietyboard@gmail.com; Animal - Advisory Board; Hillary Schieve; jhart@mynews4.com;

EHaddad@reno.gannett.com

Subject: RE: Open Letter to NHS Board of Directors in response to May 10 Statements

Date:Saturday, May 20, 2023 2:52:47 PMAttachments:Response to NHS statements.pdf

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear NHS Board Members,

I wanted to alert you that it has been a week since I sent the attached letter with questions that I, concerned citizens, animal lovers, as well as donors, have requested that you answer in a timely manner. To date, I have received no correspondence from the NHS Board of Directors, not even an acknowledgement of receipt of the open letter.

Since I sent the attached open letter, the President and Vice President of the NHS Board of Directors (Mr. Ray Gonzalez, Wells Fargo Advisors; Ms. Rita Eissmann, Ferrari-Lund and wife of DDS Greg Eissmann) have appeared on multiple TV programs and a public meeting with Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board. In these public forums, Board President Gonzalez admitted that NHS has made mistakes in the past, promised "drastic change" at NHS, and is now committed to "1,000% transparency."

Since releasing the open letter, I have heard from many people. They have asked that I share your response to the open letter with them. There is unanimous agreement from these NHS stakeholders that answering questions from the public is required for NHS to prove that the promise for transparency is more than just words or a stall tactic. To this end, I have also been asked to add the following requests for information:

- 1. When will NHS release of NHS' Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy, as well as the COI declarations of each Member of the Board, present and over the last several years? Their release was promised by Board President Gonzalez's on May 15.
- 2. Release the terms of the contract signed with the "culture consultant" that NHS has hired. Provide resume or other documentation that identifies the "culture consultant" qualifications and prior experience.
- 3. Release the terms of the contract signed with the new "interim CEO." Provide resume or other documentation that identifies the interim CEO's qualifications and prior experience.

Given NHS's extreme lack of transparency over the past several years, and the corresponding issues (deviations from the bylaws, financial inconsistencies, animal care shortcomings, poor personnel management practices, donor concerns, etc.) that were prevalent during the same time period, it should be clear why answering these questions is an important step in regaining the trust of the community.

Your immediate attention to this matter would be very much appreciated.

Thank you.

Jodie Wang, for NHS stakeholders

From: Jodie Wang

Sent: Saturday, May 13, 2023 12:50 AM

To: nevadahumanesocietyboard@gmail.com; advisoryboard@washoecounty.us; Hillary Schieve <schieveh@reno.gov>; jhart@mynews4.com; EHaddad@reno.gannett.com

Subject: Open Letter to NHS Board of Directors in response to May 10 Statements

To All Concerned with the crisis at NHS, please find attached, an open letter expressing the concerns of myself and other stakeholders in NHS, in response to the two statements released by the NHS Board of Directors on May 10.

Thank you very much.

Jodie Wang

OPEN LETTER TO NHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On 10 May, the NHS Board of Directors, released an announcement indicating your intent to address the numerous complaints received about: NHS board member deviations from the bylaws, financial inconsistencies, animal care shortcomings, poor personnel management practices, donor concerns, etc. On the same day, NHS Board of Director's Vice President, Ms. Rita Eissmann, released an email to "concerned individuals," attempting to address some of the issues and concerns that were identified by the general public. I applaud your intention to address these issues, and to work on restoring the public's faith in NHS.

I would also like to state that lack of transparency was a major reason why so many NHS issues were allowed to go unaddressed for so long. I also believe that the only way to restore the public's faith in NHS is to provide the public full transparency into the facts related to issues and concerns that were identified. I know I speak for many people concerned about the future behavior at NHS, and the NHS Board of Directors, when I say continued use of "generic statements," with no facts to back them up, is no longer an option for the NHS Board of Directors. The public provides funding to NHS, and the NHS Board of Directors owe the public transparency into how those funds are used, and what type of animal care is being provided by those funds.

To that end, I would like to identify several generic statements that were made in the 10 May releases from the NHS Board of Directors, which I and many other concerned citizens would like the Board of Directors to elaborate on with facts that will provide full transparency.

General statements from NHS Board of Directors Letter

The letter states: "On Thursday, May 4, the NHS board immediately conducted an internal inquiry regarding the facility's processes. After this inquiry was completed the board was assured the facility is operating in accordance with all National Humane Society standards. At this time, the organization maintains it has achieved a 95% lifesaving rate (which it has maintained since 2012) in Washoe County as well as a 95% lifesaving rate in Carson City, where the org expanded in 2014."

Information required to provide transparency:

- Who conducted the internal assessment on May 4, and what are their qualifications?
- What did the inquiry examine (computer data, employee interviews, professional examination, etc.)?
- Please provide reference to the "National Humane Society standards" that were used to evaluation NHS. The Humane Society of the United States does not monitor humane societies, and each humane society is its own entity, with no national across-the-board standards. It is thus unclear what is meant by "National Humane Society standards."
- What data was used to assert the 95% lifesaving rate? How does the data address adopted animals that were returned multiple times (1 dog or multiple dogs)? How does it handle animals that get transferred between Reno and Carson City (single dog for both or 2 dogs)? Former COO Lisa Feder said that ShelterLove data double counts each animal that gets transferred or returned. If this was the data source, how were these issues addressed to ensure that an adequate report of performance is presented?

The letter states: "A third-party investigation has been scheduled for May 22 to identify relevant data and further feedback through an outside evaluation. The intent of this investigation will be to identify the veracity and extent of these claims to ensure NHS operates within full compliance with animal husbandry ethics and standards."

Information required to provide transparency:

- Who is the third-party investigating animal welfare on May 22? What is/are their qualifications to assess the shelter operations?
- Is this investigation a 1-day review (scheduled for May 22), or is it starting on May 22, and will be conducted over multiple days, providing a more detailed examination of all NHS operations?
- What is meant by "full compliance with animal husbandry ethics and standards"? How does this relate to "National Humane Society standards"? If NHS is not going to follow a set of industry standards, they should publish their custom standards.
- Note, assessing a shelter for its ability to operate in compliance with "husbandry ethics" is NOT used in sheltering, but rather, in breeding animals, and in zoos.

The letter states: "On May 9, the board accepted the resignation of CEO Greg Hall, effective immediately. The board also voted to identify and initiate an investigation with a third party expert to examine and evaluate the management practices within NHS in order to strengthen operations from within."

Information required to provide transparency:

- What issues and concerns, identified by the general public, are not related to Greg Hall being CEO, and still being addressed by the Board of Directors? Mr. Greg Hall was not the only person identified as causing issues and concerns at NHS. Are the Board of Directors assessing the effectiveness of other managers in NHS?
- Who is the acting CEO? What are his/her qualifications in managing an animal shelter, experience in animal welfare, managing personnel, and running a multi-million-dollar organization?
- Who is the 3rd party expert who will "examine and evaluate" the management practices? What are his/her/their qualifications in managing an animal shelter, and experience in animal welfare, managing personnel, and running a multi-million-dollar organization?

The letter states: "At this time, the board has gathered and are currently reviewing the minutes from former NHS board meetings to better ascertain circumstances. Regardless, the board approved and comprised on May 9, 2023 an ad-hoc bylaw review committee that will re-review the existing bylaws, determining whether updates could be made that will strengthen the nonprofit's governing body."

Please see comments on these issues in response to Rita Eissman's email.

General statements from Ms. Rita Eissmann's Email

The email states: "Our current bylaws stipulate that a board member must drop from the board after serving six years for at least a period of one year. To ensure the organization retained board members with historical understanding as new board members joined, the board elected to split the existing board into multiple classes to term out in a staggered fashion. Had they imposed the six year term in 2015 on all board members, it would have created a gap in information for the newest 2021 class."

Information required to provide transparency:

- Is Ms. Eissmann stating that the board knowingly broke the bylaws? If so, please explain why the board didn't make modifications in the bylaws, versus

- intentionally ignoring them? As this should have been discussed during a board meeting, when will the board meeting minutes be released?
- Is Ms. Eissmann making the assertion that all Board Members serving prior to 2015, had a "reset" to their time served, such that all Board Members in 2015 would time-out in 2021? The bylaws make no assertion to this being the case. In fact, the bylaws clearly state that "The Board of Directors shall be divided into three (3) classes of equal or approximately equal size. The term of office for each elected Director shall be three (3) years. Annually, one-third (1/3) of the membership of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of three (3) years by secret ballot." This is known as "staggering" as stated by Ms Eissmann. It also means that in 2016, 1/3 of the Board had to be re-elected.
- Please explain why there would not have been institutional knowledge when new directors were added each year:
 - o 4 new directors were added in 2015
 - o 2 new directors were added in 2016
 - o 3 new directors were added in 2017
 - 3 new directors were added in 2018
 - o 3 new directors were added in 2019
 - o 5 new directors were added in 2020
 - 6 new directors were added in 2021
- It appears that the board was following the bylaws by adding new directors every year. A few even rotated out of the board after three years, leaving for a year before returning. These included Mr. Chuck Allen, Dawn Ahner, and Kevin Linderman. Why could these directors rotate out, but not the others who had served much longer? "The Board of Directors shall be divided into three (3) classes of equal or approximately equal size. The term of office for each elected Director shall be three (3) years. Annually, one-third (1/3) of the membership of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of three (3) years by secret ballot." With the rotations every year, what exactly is Ms. Eissmann referring to as the "gap in information" in 2021?
- Even if there were a "gap in information" in 2021, why didn't the board take any actions to rectify that in 2022 or 2023? Ms. Kris Wells had served 10 years in 2023. There were multiple directors identified as having served 10+ years. Were Mr. Jack Grellman and Ms. Jan Watson already on the board in 2007 (serving 15 years)? Was Ms. Tierra Bonaldi also on the board prior to 2012?
- Why did the Board of Directors not publish the bylaws until May 5 2023, as is required by the IRS?

The email states: "As to payments made to former board members, according to the 2015 Nevada Humane Society bylaws, the board may distribute funds with those they have entered into contractual relationships or elect to make lawful payments in **furtherance of the purposes of the organization** (Article II, Section 3)."

Information required to provide transparency:

- If paying board members, their families, associated companies, etc. is not an issue, why did NHS not identify these payments in their tax returns or publish the funds being sent to Board Members or their affiliates? The one time that this was identified by Joe Hart, in 2021, NHS rushed to change the tax return to remove the payment to Greg Hall.
- Please release all information related to all funds that NHS has given to Board members or their affiliates. The information should include: amount of money, contractual services provided, competitive bids that justify the board member's services are cost effective, and documentation developed related to the payment of a board member.
- Who are the people or companies that received hundreds of thousands of dollars from NHS, that are reported in the generic tax line, other Fees for Services (non-employee professional services)?

- What safeguards did the NHS Board of Directors implement to ensure that funds sent to Board Members or their affiliates were in the best interest of NHS?
- Who approves contracts for services with NHS Board Members or their affiliates?
- Was Greg Hall paid \$37,499 in 2017? Was a 1099 issued to him? When the 2017 tax return was re-filed, was a corresponding corrected 1099 issued to him?
- Who are the providers of accounting and legal services, as called out in the tax returns?
- NHS should also explain why there were big spikes in certain expenses in certain years:

ACCOUNTING

ACCOUN	NIINO		
Year	Amount	% increase from previous	
		year	
2013	17,500	187%	
2017	27,808	70%	
2018	66,301	138%	
ADVERT	ISING & PROMOTION		
Year	Amount	% increase from previous	
		year	
2014	123,354	79%	
2015	169,332	37%	
INFORM	ATION TECHNOLOGY	,	
Year	Amount	% increase from previous	
		year	
2019	42,652	78%	
2021	78,627	73%	
INSURAN	NCE	<u>, </u>	
Year	Amount	% increase from previous	
		year	
2015	57,020	184%	
	MENT MANAGEMENT FEES	,	
Year	Amount	% increase from previous	
		year	
2012	22,993	First year available currently	
2018	61,879	First year after 0 amounts	
	7.5	multiple years	
2019	63,976	3%	
2020	68,618	7%	
2021	96,539	41%	
LEGAL			
Year	Amount	% increase from previous	
		year	
2019	42,398	628%	
	ETINGS/CONVENTIONS	0.207.0	
Year	Amount	% increase from previous	
	7	year	
2018	50,703	74%	
2019	55,131	9%	
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Who were paid these spikes in fees, and what was the reason for the spikes?

The email states: "The board is actively reviewing the minutes from the last several years to ascertain what circumstances may have surrounded those payments. Regardless, **last night** the board approved and comprised an ad-hoc bylaw review committee that will re-

review the existing bylaws, identifying whether there are insufficiencies and determining whether updates could be made that will strengthen the nonprofit's governing body."

Information required to provide transparency:

- When will the findings from the ad-hoc bylaw review be made available to the public?
- Given the Board of Directors' previous resistance to publish the current bylaws, what assurances will the public have that any future changes made, will be provided to the public?
- What safeguards will be instituted to ensure future Board members cannot personally benefit from contracts with NHS?
- Will the Board of Directors adopt a Code of Ethics that apply to Board members?
- Will the Board of Directors establish requirements for transparency on how board members are selected?

The email states: "Nevada Humane Society has retained law firm Fennemore Craig P.C. to provide legal counsel and support to the organization during this time. Michelin Nadeau Fairbank is the attorney working with NHS. Neither Ms. Fairbank nor her firm are retained to provide legal services to any individual or employee of NHS.

The legal team is in place for the sole purposes of understanding contract and employee law so that Nevada Humane Society board members may make decisions for the future of the organization within proper legal parameters. It is the unanimous opinion of the board that this expenditure, and others we may approve, is critical as we seek to ensure forward steps safeguard the future of the organization and, again, no one person.

It would be unethical for this organization to make decisions that inadvertently open the Nevada Humane Society to future liabilities, so we must endeavor to make every forward step compliant and within the best interest of our staff, volunteers and the animals within our care."

Information required to provide transparency:

- Will the costs associated with the legal counsel be published and made available to the general public?
- Since the NHS Board of Directors is using donor funds to pay for the legal team, will the Board of Directors commit to releasing the legal fees incurred, to the general public?

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From: <u>Jeanette Dunning</u>
To: <u>Animal - Advisory Board</u>

Subject: Dog in back of open Truck bed on the freeway

Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 3:55:02 PM

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hello, I was driving on 395 going south on Saturday and traffic was backed up and I look ahead to my left and there's a truck open bed truck with a dog tied to the back sitting there leaning against the cab of the truck It looks like a puppy. I roll my window down to kind of look, but I didn't wanna be around somebody, so I didn't really say anything to the guy, but the person next to me was all upset and yelled to me that they told him they would take the dog. Then traffic sped up, and nothing happens that I know of.

All I can say, is that poor puppy What if that man got hit what happened to that dog? Also, I feel like it's a distraction when you're driving because you really can't believe that Dog is back there on the freeway. It just looks so horrible.

I called highway patrol and they said that it was OK to drive like that please get this law changed

Thank you, Jeanette Dunning

Sent from my iPhone

From: Gloria Derby

To: <u>Animal - Advisory Board</u>

Subject: Joint appeal with WCRAS and NHS **Date:** Sunday, June 4, 2023 4:00:15 PM

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

I just read the joint appeal from WCRAS and NHS about the possibility of having to kill animals at the Washoe County facility because they are at capacity.

Then why are there empty kennels at NHS (pictures included from today on www.nhswatchgroup.com) if you have no room.

Plus Trent Bingham, Development Director at NHS told me a couple of days ago in writing that they just took 111 dogs from Washoe County in recent days. Is that the truth or a lie? How can you be full if they took all those dogs? If they are full, what did they do with the dogs?

There is such a huge measure of distrust about NHS from the community and what has been happening there that it is just sad. Our wonderful shelter has taken a deep dive into lies, mistreatment of staff and volunteers and misuse of donor funds that it is a crying shame!!

Gloria Derby

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: Gloria Derby

To:Animal - Advisory BoardSubject:Jerleen"s Office Remodel at NHSDate:Friday, June 9, 2023 12:53:37 PM

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

I would like to know how Jerleen can paint, put in new baseboard and flooring in her office after only being on the INTERIM CEO job a week? I am sure she did not get COUNTY authorization to do that in that time as they move slowly. Page 11 of the lease agreement between County and NHS says you cannot even put a screw in the wall without prior approval from the county.

I will be notifying commissioners also.

They are not looking to hire qualified kennel people according to their website, but can spend NHS money on new flooring and baseboards?

Gloria Derby