



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee

To Community Safety - Dec 14, 2004

Date: December 1, 2004

From: Don Pearson
Manager, Community Bylaws

File: 01-0060-20-RHCA1

Re: RICHMOND HOMELESS CATS SOCIETY'S OFFER TO OPERATE THE RICHMOND ANIMAL SHELTER

Staff Recommendation

THAT the offer from Richmond Homeless Cats Society to operate the Richmond Animal Shelter be declined.

Don Pearson
Manager, Community Bylaws

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE		CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
Law	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>			
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

At the October 13, 2004 meeting of the Community Safety Committee the Richmond Homeless Cats Society made a presentation and distributed written information to propose that Richmond Homeless Cats Society assume responsibility of the Richmond Animal Shelter (currently operated by the SPCA).

Council on October 25, 2004 referred the following information to staff:

- (1) That the proposal of the Richmond Homeless Cats Society to assume responsibility for the operation of the Richmond Animal Shelter (currently operated by the SPCA), be referred to staff for evaluation and consideration, including within that evaluation, any future direct cost implications to the City; and
- (2) That execution of any contract between the City and the SPCA be suspended until after completion of the review of the proposal put forward by the Richmond Homeless Cats Society.

Analysis

Originally, when Staff were reviewing other animal control service delivery options, staff requested the SPCA provide two proposals to provide a cost comparison between the SPCA continuing to provide full animal control services (bylaw enforcement, pound and shelter services) and the SPCA only providing pound and shelter services.

Two other groups subsequently approached the City to submit proposals to provide full animal control services; neither was interested in providing a limited service delivery model (pound and shelter only). Only one group submitted a proposal and their proposal was similar in costs and service delivery to the proposal submitted by the SPCA. Staff were not approached by other organizations, therefore a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) was not tendered.

After considering the options, staff recommended a limited outsourcing contract with the SPCA to operate the City's Animal Shelter with City Staff providing animal control enforcement services. This model will save the City significant costs while providing increased animal control patrol coverage. On June 14, 2004 Council endorsed this service delivery model.

On September 1, 2004 the new animal control service delivery model was implemented, with the understanding that the contract, when formalized and signed, will represent the new terms and conditions of a contract with the SPCA providing a limited (pound and shelter) service.

In the October 13, 2004 Richmond Homeless Cats Society's presentation to Community Safety Committee, the Richmond Homeless Cats Society had concerns with SPCA's practices for euthanizing animals under their care. Staff addressed these concerns with the SPCA and were reassured the SPCA's policy is to only euthanize those animals that are not adoptable (due to behavioural problems) and for humane medical reasons (animals that are suffering).

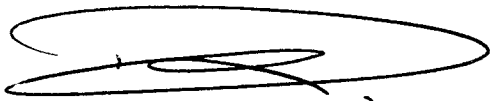
Correspondence has been received from the Richmond Homeless Cats Society, dated November 9, 2004, stating that they will not be submitting a formal proposal at this time. There have been discussions with the Richmond Homeless Cats who were aware of their options, the status of the discussions with the SPCA and the content of the Committee referral. Had a proposal been submitted it would have been evaluated as directed by Committee. A formal proposal from this group is expected at the end of the current proposed contract with the SPCA.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

That the offer from the Richmond Homeless Cats Society to operate the Richmond Animal Shelter be declined.



Dal Benning
Bylaw Liaison Officer
(4079)

DB:db