



CITY OF PALO ALTO OFFICE OF THE CITY AUDITOR

March 23, 2015

The Honorable City Council
Palo Alto, California

Request for Procedural Change - Present the Results of the Animal Services Audit to the Finance Committee Rather Than to the Policy and Services Committee

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council refer presentation of the Animal Services Audit to the Finance Committee.

Background

In October 2014, Council adopted changes to Section 2.08.130 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code that now require the Office of the City Auditor to present all completed performance audits to the Policy and Services Committee.

The Office of the City Auditor is currently conducting an audit of the Animal Services Division to evaluate and compare best practices for providing animal services, to determine if Animal Services receives all revenues to which it is entitled, and to determine if improvements can be made in operations to allow the program to break even with the cost of services provided. The Office of the City Auditor is also conducting a resident and user survey to evaluate the opinions of services provided by Animal Services. The audit will include the results of this survey.

On December 2, 2014, the Finance Committee heard discussion of a Colleagues Memo regarding Animal Services. The Finance Committee accepted the City Manager's recommendation to defer the item to a meeting after April 2015 to allow the City Auditor to publish the results of the Animal Services audit and for the City Manager's Office to continue to engage stakeholders and interest groups of the Animal Services Division with a consulting firm.

The Office of the City Auditor recommends that the results of the audit be presented to the Finance Committee rather than the Policy and Services Committee. This change would provide continuity in discussion because the Finance Committee will be hearing the results of the ongoing work that the City Manager's Office is doing with stakeholders and interest groups of the Animal Services Division. Hearing both the audit results and the results of the City Manager's work with stakeholders will provide continuity and facilitate the decision-making process regarding the future of the Animal Services Division.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Richardson

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City Auditor

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