

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA

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March 11, 2015

Eric Garcetti, Mayor
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Garcetti,

Our Animal Issues committee of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) met on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 with the SMART (Small Animal Rescue Team) team from the Department of Animal Services (DAS), headed by Acting Lieutenant Armando Navarrete. The purpose was for our committee to learn when it would be appropriate to call on the SMART team's help in situations involving animal emergencies and rescues.

At the top of our mind are some recent incidents, such as last November in our community where a DWP employee on a bucket truck removed a cat that had been trapped on a power pole for three days, and tossed it from over the side of the bucket 15-20 feet to the ground.

SMART team Acting Lieutenant Navarrete said that his team recently asked DWP emergency dispatch to contact them when an animal is involved so they can assist in the rescue. However, the only time they were called, DWP workers did not wait for them to arrive.

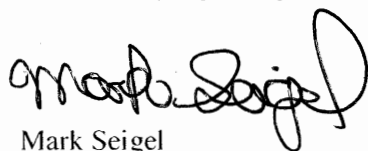
We also learned that DAS Director of Field Operations Mark Salazar and General Manager Brenda Barnette have tried to contact DWP's General Manager to create a working relationship regarding animal rescues but they have not received an official response from anyone at DWP. Additionally, the Animal Issue committee of STNC has also been unsuccessful in getting any response from DWP about training their workers how to handle animals more compassionately.

We are asking you, Mayor Garcetti, to intervene on behalf of STNC's Animal Issues committee and the animals of the City of L.A. We want to see a policy put into place whereby DWP workers have a protocol of contacting DAS SMART for these types of rescues.

What that means to all of us in Los Angeles is a more humane way of handling trapped or frightened animals.

Please keep us posted on what, if any, actions are taken. Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council



Mark Seigel
President



Pat Kramer
Region 1 Representative/Animal Issues Committee

cc: DWP GM Marcie Edwards, DAS GM Brenda Barnette, DAS Director of Field Operations Mark Salazar, City of L.A. PAWS Committee, SMART Team Acting Lieutenant Armando Navarrete, Councilman Felipe Fuentes