

From: Steve Quintanilla
Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2014 7:06 AM
To: ADrusys@RCDAS.ORG
Cc: Martin Magana; Jeanine Plute; Jerryl Soriano; Kristie Ramos
Subject: DHS: Notice of 90 Day Suspension of "Door Knocking" Field Operations Program



LAW OFFICES OF
QUINTANILLA & ASSOCIATES

**Office of the City Attorney
City of Desert Hot Springs**

August 12, 2014

**Dr. Allan C. Drusys, Director
County of Riverside Department of Animal Services
581 S Grand Avenue
San Jacinto, CA 92582
ADrusys@RCDAS.ORG**

Re: Ninety-Day Suspension of "Door Knocking" Field Operations Program

Dear Dr. Drusys,

Please be advised that the Desert Hot Springs City Council unanimously voted to suspend the field operations program that involves License Inspectors of the County of Riverside Department of Animal Services ("Department") canvassing neighborhoods "door knocking" throughout the City to observe and/or listen for barking dogs at each residence and then accessing the Department's data base to determine if license dogs reside at the respective address, for purposes of determining whether the subject dog is un-licensed, un-vaccinated for rabies, un-micro chipped and un-spayed/un-neutered. As you know, this "door knocking" field operations program is being conducted by the Department pursuant to Section 7.1 Dog Licensing and the Integrated Licensing Program (ICLP) of Exhibit A Scope of Animal Field and Licensing Services of the Animal Field and Licensing Services Agreement by and the Department and the City of Desert Hot Springs.

Although the objective of this particular field operations program (according to the Agreement) is to raise revenue through increased "canine licensing," the City believes that **the program must be suspended for a period of ninety (90) days, commencing immediately, due to numerous complaints from residents alleging harassment, privacy invasion, emotional distress due to threats of excessive fines, incorrect information contained in notices, etc..** In addition, some residents, who cannot pay the fines, have chosen instead to abandon their dogs, which has become an unintended consequence of this particular field operations program that has created several other

problems, which has possibly created additional health and safety risks to the community. This “moratorium” period is intended to provide the City with time to assess the success of the program and to reassess its objectives in light of the concerns expressed by many residents in the community.

Notwithstanding the above, this “moratorium” period is not intended to halt any inspection activities associated with responding to citizen requests for service or responding to citizen complaints about animal behavior.

Regards,

Steve Q.

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