

**Commission on Animal Care & Control**  
**Minutes of July 15, 2021 Commission Meeting**  
**Approved at the November 18, 2021 meeting**

**Commissioners Attending (7 of 9)**

Cynthia Bathurst, Chair, private citizen  
Thomas Beazley, Chicago Police Department  
Ramona Griffin, private citizen  
Josie Cruz, Chicago Department of Streets & Sanitation Member  
JB Bruederle, Veterinarian Member  
Charleen Propsom, private citizen  
Janna Kerins, Chicago Health Department Member

**Commissioners Absent (2 of 9)**

Heather Owen, private citizen  
Paula Fasseas, Humane Society Member

**Also Attending**

Mamadou Diakhate, Executive Director, CACC  
Susan Cappello, Deputy Director, CACC  
Arthur Hamilton, Shelter Manager, CACC  
Jennifer Schlueter, Executive Administrative Assistant, CACC  
Angela Rayburn, Operations Manager, CACC  
Members of the public – via livestream

**Agenda Item #1: Determination of Quorum and Call to Order**

C. Bathurst performed roll call, determined a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Agenda Item #2: Public Comment – Public Comments are to be emailed to [askcacc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:askcacc@cityofchicago.org) in advance of the meeting.**

8 letters were sent to [visitcacc@cityofchicago.org](mailto:visitcacc@cityofchicago.org), S. Cappello read the letters out loud and the letters were forwarded to all Commission members. The letters will be attached to the minutes.

**Agenda Item #3: Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes from the May 20, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved by all in attendance.

**Agenda Item #4: Report of Chairperson**

C. Bathurst reported that we finally have a representative from the Chicago Police Department; The Commission has not sent out a letter to the Alderman Offices yet pending the placement of a CPD Representative; working on a policy for the Public Comment section of the Commission Meeting.

**Agenda Item #5: Report of Executive Director**

Submitted a written report via email. Quoting a public comment ‘We are a better City when we work together’, thanks to the residents who sent in comments to the Commission and we welcome ideas. We will review the friendly cat release. Welcome to our new CPD Representative. Reported on the work with Pets For Life in conjunction with University of Wisconsin in line with the Invest South / West initiative. Refocus on the Adopters Welcome program. Volunteers are back with additional training; all aspects of the Volunteer program are back with additional tasks. Established pet food pantries, 36 pallets of food and supplies have been distributed and we

are working with Cook County and other organizations including the Aldermen and we have serviced over 400 pets at the vaccine clinics. ACO's have been providing information to the public on how to keep their pets in their homes. Equity training & customer service training is being conducted with Staff, Volunteers and others. Field Service report – 5 Officer vacancies & 2 on LOA with only 14 active. CACC received 17,533 calls for request and 16,848 closed with only 14 active officers. Owner surrenders decreased and stray animal numbers are the same as pre-pandemic.

C. Bathurst congratulated the staff promoted into new positions.

S. Cappello reported on the vacancies and hire plan.

J. Schlueter reported that around 150 previous volunteers have been returned and retrained. Redoing training for volunteers and will be launching additional opportunities like agility to Volunteers. Starting dialog meetings with Volunteers to discuss issues and concerns. Free Tag/Collar days and pop up food pantries coming up and additional vaccine clinics in addition to free adoption events.

A Hamilton reported on statistics. Staying on trend and not a lot of change in numbers. Owner surrender intake for dogs is significantly down and stray dogs are the same; owner surrender intake for cats is slightly down and stray cats are slightly up. M. Diakhate added that the intake by appointment has not affected the intake numbers at all. A. Hamilton reported that adoption numbers may be down because we were unable to host the large adoption events.

R. Griffin commented on happy to see the letters come in from the public and asked if is there a point that she can give up 'my time' to allow the letters to be read in their entirety. Happy to hear about CACC working with the PFL program, are there any thoughts to do tours of animal care and control? The Commission makes recommendations to the department and is recommending that CACC provides a 6 month data plan and how this helps with the Cat program. Looked at the Ohio data and that is outdated. Will be submitting some recommendations for the Cat program. Communication of when someone calls in about a stray dog, does the security guard provide documentation on what to do. M. Diakhate reported that yes, the information is available at the front desk and a Supervisor will be called if needed.

#### **Agenda Item #6: City Agency Reports**

- J. Cruz (Streets & Sanitation) been busy with recovery.
- J. Kerins (Health) main thing recently was the shipment of dogs through O'Hare Airport with a rescue group which tested positive for rabies; had to figure out a quarantine for a few other dogs. Length of the quarantine depends on the vaccine status of the dog (if vaccinated 45 days, if not vaccinated 6 months). Worked with the CDC to see vaccine status by using a titer test. COVID has gone down, looking at the variances – recommends to get vaccinated unless you can't for health reasons.
- T. Beazley (Police) Lieutenant with CPD with 25 years of service & commanding officer for K9 unit for 3 years. Currently 16 K9 dogs on duty with larger contingency of K9 explosive unit at airports and rail system. Volunteered to reach out to all the districts to see if they have the scanners. C. Bathurst accepted the assistance from T. Beazley to provide information on the scanners and what the procedures are for the stations to scan an animal. C. Bathurst would like to know if there is a need for collars, leashes, etc at the stations and the status of the animal crimes team and how they are operating and lastly what training can we offer to CPD on animal issues.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Commissioner Reports**

- JB. Bruederle – No report.
- C. Propsom – FCACC reported on the After Hours Crisis Care Program. Since January there were 17 cases in the program and 11 lives were saved and 2 animals returned to their owners. Total cost of the 6

month period was \$39,599.02. FCACC tries to do fund raising for the animals regularly. Commend CPD for a call one night for a specific situation of a dog shot. R. Griffin thanked FCACC and CACC for this program.

- R. Griffin – No report.
- H. Owen – No report.
- C. Bathurst – Commend CACC & AIS for letting Safe Humane back in as volunteers and working to get additional volunteers in the program. Working with 4 programs and adding new partnerships.
- P. Fasseas – No report.

**Agenda Item #8: Other Business**

None.

**Agenda Item #9: New Business**

None.

**Agenda Item #10: Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next virtual meeting is September 16, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.