KILLEEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
3304 Community Boulevard
Killeen, Texas 76542

October 29, 2013

Mayor and City Council:

As you are aware, the Animal Control Manager, Stacey Sherva, was recently placed on administrative leave in order to give the police department the necessary time to investigate allegations of management misconduct and improper care of animals. The investigation is ongoing but nearing completion.

Because of the allegations made, and the fact that no employee under Mrs. Sherva's supervision reported their concerns to their chain-of-command, I felt it necessary to look outside the Animal Control Unit to fill the Interim Animal Control Manager position. As such, Commander Lee Caufield has been reassigned from overseeing the Police Department's Special Investigations Division to serve as the Interim Animal Control Manager.

Without rendering judgment on the ongoing investigation, I would like to highlight some of the areas we have focused on since Commander Caufield took over the Animal Control Unit:

1. Closer supervision of personnel and their job related responsibilities;

2. Clearing existing space within the facility with the intent to rearrange animal occupancy to separate stray animals from adoption animals, with the goal of reducing disease exposure to adopted animals;

3. Ordering new equipment with the goal of enhancing the animal capture abilities of the Animal Control Officers to better address at-large animals within the community;

4. Performing policy revisions to better use the resources available to track and better document the condition of animals on intake and during their occupancy at the kennel, with specific focus on any treatment received in-house or externally for any injuries or illness;

5. Enforcing a duel cleaning schedule and evaluating the type of products and equipment used for cleaning in an effort to address odor issues; and

6. Implementing new contacts with external resources in an effort to rebuild old relationships with our animal support network.

The aforementioned is just a sample of what has occurred since the management changed, and we will continue to address other areas of concern moving forward. On another note, there was a recent visit by the media to obtain photographs of the Animal Control shelter that met with resistance from my staff. While their intentions were good, there was no valid reason not to escort the media through the shelter. My office has provided clear guidance on future encounters of this kind, and I apologize to each of you for the results that transpired from that decision.

In the near-term, it is my intention to see the internal investigation concluded and take the proper course of action. The Animal Control Unit will continue to operate under the new policy and procedural changes currently underway. While there are varying opinions as to how to best operate the Animal Control Unit (both local and out-of-area), it is the department's goal to operate it in the best interest of the animals under its care.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 254-501-8804.

Sincerely,

D. M. Baldwin

DENNIS M. BALDWIN
CHIEF OF POLICE

DMB/vj