

LAW & COURTS COMMITTEE  
July 12, 2018  
Minutes

Members Present: Crenshaw, Anthony, Celentino, Hope, Schafer, and Maiville

Members Absent: Banas

Others Present: Commissioner Tennis, Commissioner Koenig, Commissioner Sebolt, Jamie Hillman, Chelsea VanCamp, Katelynn Frash, Dotty Slaige, Connie Page, Charlene Hornbeck, Tina M. Walton, Kristina Drake, Donna Ray, Patricia Whitener, Jyl Alward, Richard Flynn, Catherine Emerson, Bob Pratt, Susan Steinke, Jacqueline Drake, Jason T. Adams, Lorri Deshon, Sherry Fisher, Connie Kapugia, Pat Coffey, Julie Mizner, Christy Lawrence, Maggie Emerson-Rich, Maxwell Vorhees, Richard Angelo, Brad Prehn, Bonnie Toskey, Rick Terrill, Tim Dolehanty, Becky Bennett, Teri Morton, Lindsey LaForte, and others

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Crenshaw at 6:00 p.m. in Personnel Conference Room A of the Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan.

Approval of the June 14, 2018 Minutes

MOVED BY COMM. CELENTINO, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2018 LAW AND COURTS COMMITTEE MEETING.

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas.

Additions to the Agenda

1. Prosecuting Attorney –
  - b. Resolution Honoring John J. Murray on the Event of His Retirement

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that Agenda Item No. 1 will now be labeled as Agenda Item No. 1a.

4. Law & Courts Committee
  - c. Resolution to Adopt the 2019 Juvenile Justice Community Agency Process Calendar

Chairperson Crenshaw read a statement, which is included in the minutes as Attachment A.

Ms. Walton stated that she took Simba back in to the ICAC veterinarian because it was not passing any bowel movements, but her concerns were ignored and she was dismissed. She further stated that Anne Burns, ICAC Deputy Director, told her that she and the other staff were sick of her being a drama queen and bringing Simba in so often.

Ms. Walton stated that as experienced foster parents, they knew when something was wrong with the animals in their care. She further stated that she took Simba to Dr. Joyce at Southside Animal Clinic and she found that Simba's bowels were severely impacted and required surgery.

Ms. Walton stated that the kitten was permanently injured and required daily enemas in order to pass bowels. She further stated that ICAC needed a vet who would work with foster parents.

Jamie Hillman, Save the Lansing Pitbulls, read a statement, which is included in the minutes as Attachment D.

Christine Drake, Livingston County resident, stated that Anne Burns had been the director at the Livingston County Animal Control (LCAC) for many years and under her management, it was a place where dogs went to die. She further stated that bully breeds were euthanized quickly as there was a severe prejudice against them.

Ms. Drake stated that Ms. Burns left the LCAC in 2010 after either being fired or resigning. She further stated that there was a history of Ms. Burns not treating animals well.

Pat Coffey, Livingston County resident, apologized that Livingston County did not warn Ingham County of about the actions of Ms. Burns. She further stated that she had been a member of a Livingston County group that worked toward having Anne Burns removed as LCAC Director because of poor conditions and poor treatment of animals.

Ms. Coffey stated that when Ms. Burns was terminated from employment by Livingston County they did not realize that she would be hired as Deputy Director of ICAC. She further stated that she was sorry for those affected by her control and it was always a control issue with Ms. Burns.

Ms. Coffey stated that the ICAC website stated "zero tolerance for animal cruelty and neglect" "animal owners are responsible for providing food, shelter, and proper care." She further stated that ICAC should live by its own words.

Christy Lawrence, Advocates for Reform at the Ingham County Animal Shelter, stated that there were serious issues with the ICAC at various times. She further stated that in 2014, the Ingham County Controller stated that an ad hoc committee was to be formed to address some of the issue; however, it was never formed.

Ms. Lawrence stated that due to many issues with her management of LCAC, Ms. Burns was fired from Livingston County. She further stated that the responses from ICAC to those allegations were excuses.

Mr. McCromb stated that he encouraged the Board of Commissioners to interview current staff and former staff about Ms. Burns lying under oath.

Julie Mizner, former ICAC volunteer, stated that she was removed as a volunteer because she did what an ACO told her to do. She stated that there was a lot that went on in the ICAC that the Board of Commissioners did not know about.

Ms. Mizner stated that she was working with a cat and she could feel that the cat was pregnant, she stated that when she brought it to the attention of the ICAC and the pregnancy was terminated. She further stated that she had played with a dog one day and it was killed the next day for being too mean; however, it was not mean.

Ms. Mizner asked the Committee to listen to shelter staff and volunteers. Ms. Mizner stated that the administration at the ICAC needed to go.

Dotty Slaige, Meridian Township resident, stated that she felt betrayed because she often gave donations for ICAC in the box at Soldan's Pet Store. She further stated that she was upset that she was contributing to a corrupt system.

Connie Page, ICAC volunteer, stated that this was very sad and disturbing. She further stated that the volunteers were having to endure a lot because of a well-run, well-financed smear campaign on social media.

Ms. Page stated that flyers had been sent out concerning the dogs that had died and it appeared to be attacking the shelter. She further stated that the shelter did a lot of good work and adopted out a lot of dogs, including many bully breeds.

Ms. Page stated that animals were not abused at the shelter. She further stated that the staff did a good job, although there was room for improvement.

Ms. Page stated that many of these comments against the ICAC staff and volunteers were cruel. She further stated that it was having a negative effect on the shelter.

Ms. Page stated that she would like to invite the Committee members to the shelter and look at it. She further stated that they had 59 cats waiting for a home and 6 dogs, and they were all well cared for.

Rick Flynn, husband of ICAC Staff member Jackie Flynn, stated that he had been a leader for most of his life as are the people in this room. He further stated that ICAC management was brushing complaints off and staff was afraid of retaliation.

Mr. Flynn stated that management had showed that they could not handle this job. He further stated that what was not in the report was the fact that one of these dogs caused an injury to his wife and she had been out of work since November due to the injury.

- f. Resolution from Berrien County Concerning Their Opposition to House Bill 6049 and Senate Bill 1025

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas

THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas

4. Law & Courts Committee
  - c. Resolution to Adopt the 2019 Juvenile Justice Community Agency Process Calendar

MOVED BY COMM. ANTHONY, SUPPORTED BY COMM. MAIVILLE, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that without objection, the resolution would be amended as follows:

WHEREAS, the Ingham County Board of Commissioners wishes to adopt a resolutions to establish the 2019 Juvenile Justice Community Agency Process and to reserve Juvenile Justice Millage funds in the amount of **\$125, 000** for this purpose.

Commissioner Celentino asked if this was the same as last year.

Teri Morton, Deputy Controller, stated that this was a slight increase over the past year.

Commissioner Anthony asked about changing the allocation language.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that this was the standard language used in the past.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Absent: Commissioner Banas

4. Law & Courts Committee
  - a. Michigan Human Society Report (Discussion)

John Dinon, ICAC Director, stated that everyone who worked at ICAC, worked there because they cared about animals. He further stated that there were many offensive comments tonight about the staff when they worked hard and cared a lot for the animals.

Mr. Dinon stated that fighting dogs Skully and Johnah were not emaciated, as emaciated had a clinical definition of the loss of over 50% of body weight. He further stated that both dogs had contracted whipworms.

Mr. Dinon stated that the dogs were not thin when they first were diagnosed with whipworms. He further stated that about 2 weeks later, the dogs had lost weight due to whipworms and the stressed environment.

Mr. Dinon stated that he had been in constant communication with Controller's office. He further stated that in the media it looked like things were being swept under the rug but many of the emails shown were without context.

Mr. Dinon stated that he had not tried to silence ACO Budzinski. He further stated that the ACOs' second guessing of animal care staff was creating division and riff in staff and morale problems.

Mr. Dinon stated that they will take the recommendations from Controller's report and MDARD's report and work to make the shelter operate better. He further stated that it would mean putting standard operating procedures in place and increased documentation.

Mr. Dinon stated that every minute at a computer with records meant less time staff was able to work with the animals; however, it was necessary to increase the documentation. He further stated that 47 fighting dogs were seized.

Mr. Dinon stated that of the 47 dogs, five became ill, and two of those five were euthanized. He further stated that 30 of the fighting dogs were rehomed.

Mr. Dinon stated that many animal control agencies would not have taken on this large of a case and not rehomed all the animals. He further stated that he had worked with the County Attorney, Best Friends and Bark Nation in order to rehome the animals.

Mr. Dinon stated that six in-county defendants in this dog fighting ring had plead guilty to dog fighting and two out-of-county defendants also plead guilty to either State or Federal charges. He further stated that he was proud of the great work the staff and department did on this case.

Mr. Dinon stated that ICAC was not perfect and he wished they had done things differently. He further stated that they should have euthanized Dreamvil sooner and given the outside veterinarian the medical records.

Mr. Dinon stated that the outside veterinarian did not know that the animal was in the ICAC's care in order to not create a bias. He further stated that he did not believe that knowing the true history of the animal would have created a bias and, without the full picture of the medical care provided, the outside veterinarian could not make a fully informed report.

Commissioner Celentino stated that 30 dogs were rehomed. He asked what it meant to rehome a dog.

Mr. Dinon stated that it meant that the dogs were adopted out. He further stated that it was against Michigan law to own a fighting dog, so any pedigreed fighting dog was sent out-of-state for adoption. He further stated that the adopters had been given information that these were fighting dogs and had acknowledge that they understood that.

**Commissioner Celentino asked if records of these dog adoptions could be given to the Board of Commissioners.**

Mr. Dinon stated that he agreed.

Commissioner Tennis stated he had been on the Animal Control Advisory Board for a number of years knew that this was not the first time that a large number of dogs had been brought in from a fighting ring. He further stated that standard operating procedures had been in place to avoid this.

Commissioner Tennis read an email from former ICAC Director Jamie McAloon which said that there were standard operating procedures in place to make it easier to handle the situation like taking a lot of fighting dogs at once. He further stated that staff was limited and the shelter was old but these problems seemed to be from a lack of oversight and training.

Mr. Dinon stated that was hired by the County after a report that showed that there needed to be more standard procedures. He further stated that there were not many standard operating procedures in place and there had been even less when he first started, so he was unsure what Ms. McAloon had been referring to in her email.

Commissioner Tennis stated that what troubled him was that they had had dealt with troubling situations in the past, but it had never risen to the level of needing the MHS to come in.

Mr. Dinon stated that MHS had been invited in.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the ICAC was reported by an outside veterinarian, which forced their hand in voluntary reporting. He further stated that he was concerned about the leadership at ICAC.

Commissioner Maiville thanked Mr. Dinon for coming before the Committee and admitting that things should have changed with the care for Dreamvil. He further stated that the Michigan State University (MSU) necropsy report did not show that a blockage was what killed him.

Mr. Dinon stated that during the course of the treatment he was operating on Dr. Worthington's advice and they had thought there was a blockage. He further stated that Dr. Worthington disagreed with the finding of the MSU veterinarian's necropsy report.

Commissioner Maiville asked if the care of the dogs was affected by them being considered evidence and not dogs to be adopted out.

Mr. Dinon stated that the dogs standing as evidence did not affect their care.

Commissioner Maiville stated that an email which was obtained via a Freedom of Information Act (FIOA) request from Dr. Worthington showed that she did not want to rehome fighting dogs.

Mr. Dinon stated that there were many on staff that did not want to rehome the fighting dogs, but he worked to rehome and save their lives. He further stated that pit bulls made up about half of the dogs in the shelter and there was no bias against them.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that Mr. Dinon may not be a direct report to the Board of Commissioners, but ICAC was under their purview.

Commissioner Hope asked for Mr. Dinon to expound on the possibility of bias from the outside veterinarians.

Mr. Dinon stated that on a day when the Director and Veterinarian were not at the shelter, Deputy Director Anne Burns made the decision to send the animals to the Southside Animal Clinic for a cruelty exam. He further stated that she thought it best to not give all the information to the Southside Animal Clinic.

Mr. Dinon stated that when he asked Ms. Burns about that decision she stated that she did not give all of the information because she wanted the veterinarian to make an unbiased evaluation. He further stated that he did not state that the veterinarians were biased, but that was the context in how they were given the dogs without a history.

Mr. Dinon stated that he believed it would have been a better decision to have sent the dogs with their full history. He stated that when the ICAC finds a sick animal and the owner showed a treatment plan and appropriate care were in place they do not approach that as possible cruelty; however, if they were ignoring the illness it would possibly be cruelty.

Chairperson Crenshaw asked if the ICAC gives the outside records on a normal basis.

Director stated that it was normal to send the health records.

Commissioner Hope asked what a cruelty exam was.

Director stated that it was a forensic exam to determine if the animal was a victim of cruelty or neglect.

Commissioner Hope asked if Ms. Burns was trying to determine if the shelter was being cruel to the dogs or if the former owner had been.

Mr. Dinon stated that the dogs had been in their care for a long time at that point so it would have been the shelter. He stated that he asked Ms. Burns why the dogs were sent to an outside vet twice and he has received two answers: they needed a cruelty exam and that she had felt they were in imminent danger.

Commissioner Hope asked if either of those answers were satisfactory to Mr. Dinon.

Mr. Dinon stated those answers were troubling to him.

Commissioner Hope stated that she was also troubled and baffled. She asked if they had asked the Controller's office for additional help or if the Controller's office had offered any additional help since the shelter was under some distress during this time.

Commissioner Schafer stated that in an agricultural situation the prevention of disease was important and avoiding the transmission of disease was always a concern. He further stated that there was a lot of people in and out of the shelter and asked if they could possibly be spreading disease and what could be done in the long-term to address this.

Chairperson Crenshaw returned to the room at 7:39 p.m.

Mr. Dinon stated that shelter management was a constant battle against disease. He further stated that they vaccinated all animals on intake, and tried to minimize disease as much as possible.

Mr. Dinon stated that highest risk of disease was from the stream of animals in, not the public and volunteers. He further stated that this building was built in the 1960s and these issues were not as well understood then.

Mr. Dinon stated that the new shelter would help avoid some of this as it was a better design.

Commissioner Anthony stated that this was one of the most frustrating meetings she had attended as a member of the Board of Commissioners. She further stated that they entrusted staff to run their areas and report back if there were issues, and the Board of Commissioners had not been provided enough information from staff.

Commissioner Anthony asked about the zero tolerance policy on the website and if the shelter violated the policy.

Mr. Dinon stated that they did not violate it.

Commissioner Anthony asked about former Controller Neilson's recommendation for an ad hoc committee.

Mr. Dinon stated that he did not have any information about that as it was before his tenure.

Commissioner Anthony asked about the low food supply.

Mr. Dinon stated that they tried to stretch County dollars by getting food donated. He further stated that one recommendation in the report was to start a shelter food program, but then ICAC would need to exclusively feed that type of food.

Commissioner Anthony asked if the whistleblower policy applies to ICAC. She stated that she assumes the information was on the website.

Commissioner Anthony asked if there was a repository of all the policies for the Animal Control.

Mr. Dinon stated that there were a small number kept in-house and they were also sent to the Controller's office and Unions for review. He further stated that these were not policies but rather standard operating procedures.



Commissioner Celentino asked if they informed the Controller's office as soon as possible when they asked MHS for the report.

Mr. Dinon stated that they notified them when it was requested.

Commissioner Celentino asked if there Controller's office told the Committee.

Ms. Morton stated that she had not communicated that.

Mr. Dolehanty stated that he had not communicated that.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Controller's office should have told the Committee about the request for the report.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he thought that the millage planning committee was formed in 2014, which may have been committee that the former Controller Neilson had been wanting to form ad hoc. He further stated that there was divide on staff and in the animal control world about rehoming fighting dogs because of concerns about the dogs and public safety.

Commissioner Tennis stated that he give the ICAC credit for rehoming dogs who had been involved in animal fighting rings.

Mr. Dinon stated that they did rehome the dogs in a way that protected public safety.

Commissioner Tennis stated that what Ms. McAloon had sent was a small amount of information and she stated that all of the standard operating procedures had been all left behind for the next director, including long term court cases, protocols to control parasites, and more. He further stated that Ms. Burns name continued to be brought up because of complaints.

Commissioner Tennis stated that the BOC tried not to micromanage departments but he had always been concerned that Ms. Burns remained on staff despite complaints.

Commissioner Schafer called a point of order and stated that they should not discuss personal issues.

Commissioner Tennis asked about Director's thoughts.

Mr. Dinon stated that he would work with Ms. Burns to improve management.

Commissioner Anthony asked the Controller about his current state of mind for the feedback that he had recently received about the director. She further stated that they rely on the Controller to oversee the ICAC.

Commissioner Schafer called a point of order and stated that they should not discuss personal issues.

Commissioner Maiville asked who would run the ICAC in light of issues with the Deputy Director.

Commissioner Tennis asked if full Board of Commissioners could give a directive.

Ms. Toskey stated that full Board of Commissioners can give direction to the Controller.

Commissioner Sebolt asked Ms. Toskey if that could be done by simple majority.

Ms. Toskey stated she did not think that it would take supermajority to give a directive.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that Committee action would not stop full Board of Commissioners action, so both may be done.

Ms. Toskey stated that she agreed with that.

Commissioner Schafer stated that perhaps an executive session of the Board of Commissioners was needed to get answers from the Mr. Dinon and Ms. Burns. He further stated that he had been on the Board of Commissioners since 1984 and this was not the typical way of handling this issues.

Commissioner Schafer stated that he did not think that it appropriate to go forward with this motion.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he was concerned that the Deputy Director was also involved in this investigation. He asked if someone else could be put in place other than the Deputy Director.

Ms. Toskey stated that the request could include that.

Commissioner Celentino stated he was concerned with the possibility of Ms. Burns being appointed interim director.

The motion was amended as follows:

**TO ASK THE CONTROLLER TO SUSPEND DIRECTOR DINON UNTIL THE END OF THE INVESTIGATION AND FIND A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT IN THE INTERIM OTHER THAN THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR.**

Commissioner Schafer stated that he supported a thorough, honest, intense investigation in the manner that he described.

Commissioner Anthony stated that in order to have an investigation this may be the best but this motion was a suggestion, not a directive. She further stated that the Controller would decide if the suspension was needed.

Commissioner Hope stated that this request was not a personnel matter but done in order to ensure a thorough investigation.

Commissioner Maiville stated that the full Board of Commissioners should decide on this matter.

Commissioner Koenig stated that it was obviously a personnel matter because it was based on a suspension of an employee. She further stated that this was ill-advised and not the way the County typically operates and lacks meaning.

Commissioner Celentino stated that the Ms. Burns would still be at the shelter and both are in this investigation. He further stated that although there was merit to this but he would be more comfortable with both being suspended.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he cannot support this right now. He further stated that he expected to see this at the full Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that he had to respectfully disagree with Commissioner Koenig. He further stated that there was meaning when the Committee speaks and it did not prevent the whole Board of Commissioners from taking this.

Commissioner Sebolt stated that there was a full Board of Commissioners meeting in two weeks and Controller has two weeks to come up with suitable person to operate the shelter in the interim. He further stated that he would be bringing up this at the meeting and would have the eight votes needed to issue a directive to the Controller.

Commissioner Koenig stated that this motion demanded nothing which was why it was meaningless.

Chairperson Crenshaw stated that this put Controller on notice.

Commissioner Celentino stated that he would also like the Deputy Director suspended during the investigation.

Mr. Flynn stated that in the past an ACO was allowed to be an interim director. He further stated that many of the ICAC employees were college educated and could do a good job as interim director.

Mr. Flynn stated that desperate times called for desperate measures. He further stated that the Controller had told staff not to speak to the media and not speak at the meeting.

Mr. Flynn stated that employees should be allowed to speak up to whoever will listen. He further stated that there are capable people to run the facility.

Maxwell Vorhees, ICAC volunteer, stated that he had grown because of the staff, all of the staff, and the opportunities given to him at the ICAC shelter. He further stated that the staff was yelled at by the public and not appreciated.

Mr. Vorhees stated that the staff had done so much for the community. He further stated that the staff did everything they could to help animals go to homes.

Mr. Vorhees stated that that the staff went out of their way to do everything for the animals. He further stated the shelter had saved his life, in addition to many animals' lives, and needed more funding.

Connie Page, ICAC volunteer, stated that due process was important and people should not be tried in the media. She further stated that she had volunteered for 6 years and she loved the shelter.

Ms. Page stated that lies about the shelter make it harder to adopt out the animals.

Tina Walton, ICAC volunteer, stated that both the Director and Deputy Director are involved. She had volunteered for a long time. She stated that the ICAC was a family and they could make this run well.

Ms. Walton stated that Ms. Burns would not tell the Director the truth about her interaction and the staff member that overheard the conversation would not speak up, nor would she expect her too. She further stated that the lab staff was overworked.

Ms. Walton stated that she was concerned about retaliation and being told that she should not come back to volunteer. She further stated that the Controller could trust staff members to run the shelter.

Jason Adams, ICAC foster volunteer, stated that his biggest disappointment was what was being said about the people who work and volunteer for the ICAC. He further stated that the public has been calling all of those working with the animals cruel and abusers.

Mr. Adams stated that it was not fair as these people work hard to care for many animals.

Richard Angelo, Legislative Attorney with Best Friends Animal Society, stated that he would like to clarify that they have about a 3-year-long waiting list to get into the sanctuary. He further stated that they offered Bark Nation and Capital Area Human Society and 200+ shelters in the region. He further stated that if they need help they can partner with Best Friends and they will help.

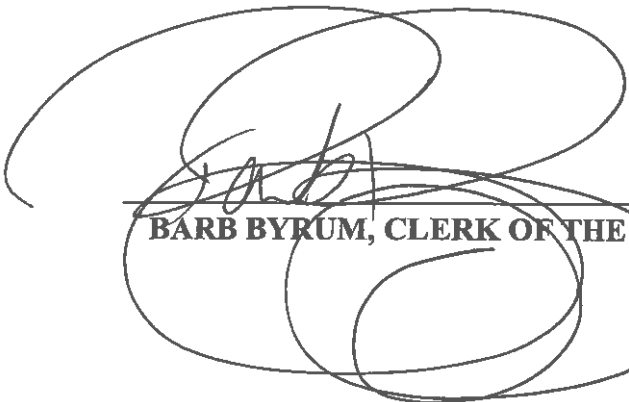
Sherry Fisher, ICAC volunteer, stated that she had volunteered for over 25 years. She further stated that she has driven around the area, to Detroit, to Traverse City to help animals. She further stated that ICAC was excellent.

Ms. Fisher stated that if ICAC needed food or help, they get it. She further stated that Channel 47 should be ashamed of the way that they reported the story which leads people to think that the FBI is investigating the ICAC.

Donna Roy, ICAC volunteer, provided a statement, which is included in the minutes as Attachment G.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.



**BARB BYRUM, CLERK OF THE BOARD**

- Each speaker will be allowed up to 3 minutes to address the committee. To hear from every person who wishes to address the committee, we must maintain this up to 3-minute time limit
- If you have written comments, we ask that you turn this into the recording clerk for inclusion in the minutes
- During this time, the committee will only take testimony. There will be no response to questions by those giving testimony, nor will commissioners be allowed to ask questions of those addressing the committee
- This is a public meeting and we must maintain decorum. I ask we be respectful of each speaker and there not be any outbursts or interruptions during public comment or during the discussion item on the agenda

national awards. This was a great time in ICAC history.

Under the short tenure of Andy Seltz, the programs started by director McAloon seemed to flourish. Adoptions remained up and cruelty and neglect investigations seemed to stay the same or increase. Many volunteers that were our clients and animal control officers that we talked to felt the new leadership was going well. From my perspective, both Jamie and Andy were very approachable and responsive to any concerns from the veterinary community. In fact, When Andy took over at ICAC, I asked for a meeting with him, and he cleared his schedule and took me to lunch. Andy initiated programs to enhance the proper handling and identification of neglect and abuse cases, something I had discussed with him and officers in the past. I visited ICAC several times during Mr. Seltz's time as director and found many of the policies we had talked about in place and being executed.

When Mr. Dinon took over as director, I asked for a sit down to discuss how we can better work together, but this never happened. All of my communications with ICAC for the past 2 years have been through Ms Burns or Teresa Carter until during the media blitz when we called ICAC to find out what channel 10 was after. We talked to Mr Dinon because Ms burns was out of the office. Then, Mr. Dinon called to give his opinion of the matter, a week later. Teresa Carter has been awesome and Ms Burns has always been nice, but she never seemed to be able to accommodate without approval from Mr. Dinon. I often felt that there was a disconnect between them, at least as far as working with veterinarians on neglect and abuse cases.

When the media blitz hit, we were first made aware of it by channel 10 calling to get my input on the case. I was out of the office that day and my technician took a message that the reporter wanted to discuss a case involving animal control. The next day, there was a photographer taking pictures outside our building. We called ICAC and since Ms Burns was out of the office, we talked to Mr. Dinon who indicated that this matter should never have gone this far and the 2 emaciated dogs I saw should never have been sent to me. He blamed the whole thing on the whip worm infestation and indicated that Ms burns was out of line for initiating the investigation. As an aside, when I did my physical exam on these dogs, we did a fecal exam and both dogs were negative for any parasite ova. Since I was the one that saw these dogs, I knew that there were concerns in my report far beyond what would have been caused by a whip worm infestation. The female dog was limping and had a wound and swelling on her hock from what looked to be a long standing injury. Her toenails were also cut back beyond the quick. Both

## **Attachment C -- Submitted by Chelsea VanCamp**

In these documents you will find staff reports, interviews, veterinary records, and emails. You will learn what really went on with the animals in the care of Ingham County Animal Control. That dogs were starving to death, sick, in pain and not given the medical care they so desperately needed. You will also discover that Director Dinon knew about all of these issues and did nothing.

I first want to talk about Dreamvil. He was brought into the shelter on July 27th, 2017 as part of the Dog fighting bust last year. On that date records show that he weighed 40 pounds, and on August 11th he weighed 45 pounds. In just 47 days he lost a massive amount of weight while in the care of the Ingham County Animal Control. September 13th he began vomiting, which lasted over a week with no vet exam. Director Dinon told staff that Dreamvil had an obstruction, but with no x-ray performed there was no way to tell if that was what was causing his illness.

It wasn't until Animal Care Staff, Jackie Flynn, who was never interviewed by the Michigan Humane Society, returned from vacation learning Dreamvil was still vomiting that a medical request was filled out on the 18th of September. During this time Dreamvil could not walk, stand and was falling over due to how emaciated he was.

Dr. Worthington stated he was not able to have an x-ray because he was aggressive. That is just not true. Dreamvil was not aggressive in his final days as he was starving to death and unable to even stand. Animal Care Staff Michelle Jelinek was hand feeding him, that is not an indication of a human aggressive dog. Animal Control Officers were not asked for help from Dr. Worthington, and they could have easily handled him to get an x-ray performed.

A distraught Flynn felt that Dreamvil was suffering and being neglected in ICAC care. Flynn said Dreamvil was dying in his kennel and no one was doing anything to help him. ACS Roxy Racin stated that Worthington talked to Dinon about euthanizing but he did not want to.

Director Dinon knew that this helpless dog was suffering, but he did not want to put him out of his misery. What kind of person lets a dog needlessly starve to death? Someone who should not be in charge of the operation of an animal shelter.

Heartbreakingly, Dreamvil died on September 27th, 2018. According to Michigan State University's Necropsy report, Dreamvil did not die from an obstruction, and he never had an obstruction like Director Dinon told everyone. Their findings said he died from starvation. MSU stressed that it takes a great length of time to be as emaciated as Dreamvil was. MSU recommended a bone marrow test to see how long he was starved. Dinon said the test was unnecessary as no one was arguing the fact that Dreamvil was starved to death.

This should not have been allowed to happen, no dogs should face starving to death while in the custody of Ingham County. I ask you to take time and read through the documents we have brought today to understand the full extent of what went on at Ingham County Animal Control.



How many animals will have to suffer at the hands of a Director that neglects animals and lies to cover up his wrong doings? It is unacceptable and shameful. John Dinon should be fired and charged with felony animal cruelty.

It would have taken me hours to go over all of this with you, and I was not able to even begin to cover everything in these few minutes. I urge you to please review the documents we have brought today. Hopefully you will come to the same conclusion that we did upon reading these documents, that John Dinon is not fit for his role as Animal Control Director.

Thank you  
J amie Hillman  
7/12/18

**My name is Bob Pratt,  
I've lived in Ingham  
County for 59 years.  
I'm reading a letter  
from my friend Maria  
Vandenkoom who  
lives in Holt and was  
a volunteer at the  
shelter almost 10  
years.** *medical condition*

**There is something**

**licensed veterinarian  
on staff; there  
already is one. And  
sadly it's not about an  
isolated incident.**

**One of the incidents  
that I personally  
witnessed was the  
unnecessary  
suffering of a puppy  
named Peanut.**

**confidant to several  
distressed and  
traumatized  
employees and  
volunteers.**

**It would be less  
egregious if I were  
the only one who  
knew or spoke up but  
several licensed  
professionals,**

**As a result we have  
current and former  
employees, current  
and former  
volunteers, countless  
lost and found  
animals who have  
been repeatedly  
betrayed by the very  
institution charged  
with protecting them.**

**There may be some in power that don't care, are in denial, are defending jobs or want to shift blame to lower level staff. Some blame an old building, or erroneously blame high intake numbers when in fact they**

**compelled to call for changes.**

**James Baldwin reminds us “Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”**

**This is a call to action; it is time to**

**protect.**

**I will continue to be the voice for Peanut and all of the other animals who have no voice. I am interested in working with and helping those with the same goals. I look forward to seeing measurable and**



Dear Committee Members:

I attended the August 25, 2014 meeting of the ICAC Advisory Committee and after giving some thought as to what was said at that meeting I have some questions and comments for you to consider.

There was an inquiry by one of the committee members to the Acting Director of ICAC, Ann Burns, regarding the use of "Heartsticks" as a method of euthanasia used at the shelter by shelter staff. Ms. Burns stated emphatically that it is shelter protocol that this method is never to be used, she personally does not approve of it, is not aware of it ever being used at the shelter, and she would investigate any report that it had been used. It was suggested that a commissioner was aware of past complaints about the use of "Heartsticks" by ICAC staff and should be contacted for follow up.

- What was the result of that follow up and has the Heartstick method ever been used by ICAC staff? Also, I would like to see the policies and procedures that ban this practice that Ms. Burns said was in place.

Regarding the circumstances surrounding the condition and subsequent death of foster puppy "Peanut", it is my opinion, this issue as stated by Ms. Burns, is not that Peanut "never should have gone to foster", but rather the undisputed poor care given to the animal while in custody at the shelter over an extended period of time as evidenced by Maria's immediate observation of her dehydration and subsequent assessment by Dr. Hicks, DVM of Michigan State University Veterinary Hospital approximately 10 hours after going into our care where Dr. Hicks report states Peanut was severely lethargic and dehydrated and he verbally told Maria that this puppy was miserable. Her body temperature was dangerously low at 94.6. Maria attempted to get permission from ICAC to be seen by a Veterinarian at her own cost, starting at 10:02 p.m. Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014, but was eventually texted back by Katlyn Turner, that after contacting Ms. Burns, Katlyn could not send her to a vet. After hours of consultation on the part of Maria, to one of our personal Veterinarians, and at my urging, the MSU VTH administration, Maria decided to seek veterinary evaluation against ICAC approval. At the Advisory Committee meeting, Ms. Burns also stated, "that lots of internal policies were not followed." This speaks to a significant lack of oversight to make sure that policies, procedures and protocols are being properly adhered to.

- I'd like copies of the internal policies and procedures that were not followed in this incident.
- Additionally, what steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence of this problem?



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS  
DIRECTOR

April 6, 2015

Mr. Andy Seltz  
Ingham County Animal Control  
600 Currie Street  
Mason, Michigan 48854

RE: Warning Letter, WO case file no. 99701

Dear Mr. Seltz:

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Animal Industry Division (AID) recently completed an investigation based upon complaints of inadequate care to include medical care of animals at the shelter and while in foster care. Two specific animals, a puppy and a cat were named in the complaint.

Our investigation revealed that the aforementioned cat which was received into the shelter on or about January 15, 2014, had received medical treatment prior to adoption on March 4, 2014, and a "vet exam" two days prior to his adoption which annotated the cat was lethargic, dehydrated, not eating, diarrheal, and medicated. Without being present at the time of adoption, we cannot confirm nor deny that treatments were appropriate and/or adequate for its health needs.

Our investigation also revealed that the aforementioned puppy, "Runt/Peanut" was ill when placed in foster, and transferred to four (4) different foster homes without permission from the shelter's foster program coordinator. The foster care program had inadequate protocols in place for approving and securing medical treatment of shelter animals in foster homes. At the time of this incident, the foster program coordinator was not allowed to authorize "Runt/Peanut" to receive treatment, and the puppy was allowed to suffer while foster care giver(s) waited to receive permission to take it to a veterinarian.

We also conducted a shelter inspection at the time of the investigation. Our inspection revealed that there were shelter animals currently receiving treatment for illness at the shelter, and no animals were noted that appeared to need treatment that were not receiving it. However there were issues with repairing and securing kennels to include sealing untreated surfaces. Regulation 151 Rule 21(1) requires the facility to be maintained in good repair to protect the shelter animals from injury be it via physical deficiencies or via exposure to pathogens. Rule 24(1) provides that the animal's primary enclosure, such as your kennels, be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the shelter animals from injury and to contain them.

# EXHIBIT 4

## Total Intake Dogs Ingham County AC

Total Intake Dogs

