



January 31, 2019

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Open Discussion
DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM FEBRUARY 12, 2019

The following items have been submitted for open discussion at the February 12, 2019 Board meeting:

- District 5—Purchase of Wayne Harrod Property
- District 5—Rescue Me Orlando Contract with Orange County Animal Shelter (OCAS)
- District 5—Ordinance on Retail Pet Sales Ordinance

The memo related to these items is attached.

BWB/mf

Attachment



January 27, 2019

To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners

From: Commissioner Emily Bonilla

Subject: February 12, 2019 - Open Discussion Items

3 Items for Discussion: More information to follow as it is received.

1. Purchase of Wayne Harrod Property

Action Requested: Vote for the BCC to agree to write a letter of support for the legislation to provide a grant to purchase the Wayne Harrod Property to turn into a passive recreation park and conservation with an entrance from Rouse Road. The county contributions will be limited to no more than the \$2.5 Million offer from the District 5 INVEST funds and no more than 50% of the total sales price.

2. Discussion of Rescue Me Orlando Contract with Orange County Animal Shelter (OCAS)

Orange County relies on partnerships with third party animal rescues to help adopt pets that otherwise will end up euthanized. Rescue Me Orlando has been instrumental in rescuing many animals from being euthanized and unfortunately has had issues with members of the Animal Services Advisory board members resulting in their non-renewal of their contract and many complaints from concerned citizens.

Before being elected, I have heard many complaints in regards to OCAS and the advisory board. I am hopeful that with the new BCC members and Mayor we can bring change to the status quo and make our OCAS one that citizens can be proud of.

Attached to the email this memo will be sent in is a disturbing video of one of the Advisory Board meetings regarding the issues leading to the non-renewal of the contract of Rescue Me Orlando.



Action Requested: Request for Work Session with Public Comment allowed of Rescue Me Orlando Contract for the organization and the public to share their comments. The intention is to hear all sides of the matter and come to a conclusion by the BCC on how staff should move forward.

3. Discussion on the Ordinance on Retail Pet Sales

Other counties are moving towards a No-kill Shelter. The first step in that direction is making sure that we are not adding to the problem - addressing the cause. Many individuals purchase from Retail Pet Stores not know that they can usually adopt the same breed of animal from a shelter - and unfortunately, when they learn about our shelters it is when they need to give up the one they purchased from a pet store.

At the June 5th BCC meeting, the Board held a work session to discuss the retail sale of pets in Orange County. Several local governments in Florida have enacted ordinances that prohibit the retail sale of certain pets. This policy approach is aimed at reducing the demand for animals bred and sold by commercial breeders, while increasing the demand for pets obtained through adoption from shelters and pet stores.

The presentation by staff provided an overview of the commercial pet breeding industry, the regulatory framework applicable to retail pet sales, and local policies related to this issue. This work session was for informational purposes only.

During the discussion, I suggested for the County to look into the adoption-based business model, which allows for pet retail stores to sell pets from shelters instead of commercial breeders. At the end of the work session, the Board directed staff to draft an ordinance regarding this issue that would be discussed with public input. Additional information on this issue can be found on page 478 of the e-agenda from June 5, 2018.

Other counties have already started with similar Ordinances for Retail Pet Sales and are moving towards having No-Kill Shelters. I hope that Orange County can catch up and also be an example to the rest of the Counties across the State and Country.

Action Requested: Request for Work Session to bring back the Ordinance on Retail Pet Sales that had started with the previous board.