

Date: July 15, 2015
To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners
From: Carlos A. Gimenez 
Mayor
Subject: Status Report on Construction of the New Animal Services Shelter

This report is an update regarding the construction of the new Animal Services Shelter. The Internal Services Department is managing the construction of this project on behalf of the Animal Services Department and both departments continue to work closely together to ensure the project is completed timely.

Because there is a critical need for additional space for the sheltered animals at the Medley facility, this project is under a very aggressive schedule. The Internal Services Department worked very closely with the Architect of Record to expedite the construction documents and permitting processes last year, conducting a parallel process in the bidding phase in order to get a general contractor on board and construction underway.

On October 1, 2014, Lynx Construction Management, LLC began construction, requiring extensive renovations of the 70,000 square foot warehouse building at 3599 NW 79 Avenue in Doral, Florida. The contract requires substantial completion of construction within one (1) year. The contractor experienced a slow startup due to manpower issues, which has been a significant subject of concern for the Internal Services and Animal Services departments that have been frequently brought to Lynx's attention. The Internal Services Department Project Manager has monitored the status of this project very closely, with daily activity reports and weekly project meetings with the contractor, staff from the Animal Services Department, and subcontractors.

While manpower resources have improved in recent months, the Internal Services Department has requested a recovery schedule from Lynx to identify how to keep the project on schedule. On June 13, 2015, the Internal Services Department received a revised schedule from Lynx indicating a new completion date of December 24, 2015 and citing unforeseen conditions discovered in the foundation of the building. Both the Internal Services Department and Animal Services Department find this completion date to be unacceptable and are closely reviewing the claim and extension for time.

I have directed the Internal Services Department to remain vigilant of this project and utilize all contractual features available, such as liquidated damages, to ensure this contractor gets back on track. I know that you share my goal and commitment to open the New Animal Shelter facility to our community as soon as possible. I will continue to monitor this construction project closely and will keep the Board of County Commissioners informed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara C. Smith, Director, Internal Services Department, at 305-375-1135.

c: R.A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
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