Memorandum

To: Berks County Municipalities
Secretaries and Managers

From: Diane Hollenbach, President, Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council
Township Manager, Maidencreek Township

Paul Janssen, Executive Director
Center for Excellence in Local Government (CELG)

Re: Survey of interest in alternate Animal Control services

Date: February 27, 2019

As you know the past 4 plus months has had major upheaval in the area of animal control services. Following decades of service to Berks County citizens and municipalities based almost exclusively on donations, the Animal Rescue League (ARL) has unilaterally changed its service model. In September the ARL initially communicated that services would only be rendered based on a uniform contract with each municipality. The contract also included dramatic fee increases and placed the financial responsibility of paying for services for any animal with the municipality. The communication indicated that failure to execute a contract by a municipality would cause the ARL to cease services to the municipality and its citizens. Today, Berks County municipalities have two options. The first option is a $2.00 per capita fee, and the second is a fee for service contract where the municipality pays fixed fees for animal handled by the ARL from the municipality. The ARL ultimately extended to contract execution period until January 31, 2019.

In December, the Community Advisory Board (CAB) for CELG requested that the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council (BCCPC) examine the opportunity for the provision of an alternate service contract. In January, the BCCPC accepted the task and the committee is progressing in the development of an RFP.

It appears that as of February 1, 2019, the City of Reading and fewer than 10 municipalities have executed contracts with the ARL. In addition, most have 30 to 90 day cancellation clauses. With over 60 municipalities without direct animal control services, time is of the essence. Exacerbating the current status is communication from the ARL that new contracts will be required of municipalities as of August 1, 2019 and that those contracts will be for 3 years (2020-2023) and be uniformly fee for service.

Time is of the essence for the provision of new services and the initial step is to understand what if any services are desired as we design this new service. Please share this survey with your elected officials to enable the BCCPC to understand your needs and generally how much your municipality would be committing financially to its success.

The service is currently being designed by the BCCPC as a contract service to each municipality, through a facility which would be owned by a municipality, County, or entity of the BCCPC. The survey is

enclosed or attached. Please return to Paul Janssen either by mail to CELG, PO Box 15234, Reading, PA 19612-5234 or email to PJanssen@albright.edu by March 30t.

Survey of Animal Control Services and costs

For services desired, please indicate with a yes or no or place an x if desired.

Dogs

Collect and Hold Stray Dogs _____ Collect and hold Vicious Dogs _____

Collect and Hold Rabid Dogs _____ Receive unwanted pets _____

Receive strays _____ Retrieve injured or dead dogs, cats or animals from public right of way _____

Spay/neuter/ inoculate and shelter for adoption _____

Cats

Collect and hold Stray Cats ___ Collect and hold Ferrell Cats ___

Spay/neuter/ inoculate and return to original location to release ____

Spay/neuter/ inoculate and shelter for adoption ____

Chipping

Bid Chip Readers for each municipality collectively _____ Number of readers requested_____

Provide for low cost Chip placement in animals _____

Access

Design service for Citizens to Directly Access for services _____

Municipality Control of services where all services would only be provided under authority and with permission of municipality. _____

Preferred Method of Payment

Fee for service _____

Per capita _____

Either depending on level of service or cost _____

Who Pays

Contract fees will paid by combination of resident or municipality _____

Contract fees paid by municipality and recovered from resident using service _____

If the services were designed in a way to meet your needs, how much funding would you commit either through fee for services or on a per capita basis? $_____