

## CCSpeechResonseToStateOfCity1-22-19

My name is Kristie Mamelli, I'm a third-generation Long Beach resident. I'm going to read an article that was recently published that I agree with.

\*\*\*\*"We are disappointed to see Mayor Garcia doubling down on his decision to hide the truth about what is happening to animals at the Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS) shelter.

In his State of the City address last week, while animal advocates stood out in the rain protesting and educating the public about the problems at the Long Beach animal shelter, Mayor Garcia was inside spinning "alternative facts" and cherry-picking statistics about the Long Beach shelter in an attempt to erase the truth that LBACS is a poorly-managed city bureau that has an animal control mentality and culture that put up unnecessary roadblocks to lifesaving.

At the State of the City, Mayor Garcia declared that 2018 was the best year in the past 10 years for LBACS - a statement that is clearly false when we review the facts around what has happened at our shelter over the past year.

Here are the facts that Mayor Garcia chose to ignore.

2018 was NOT the best year in the past 10 years for LBACS because:

\*\*Not one but TWO city audits identified 186 deficits in the way LBACS operates -- ranging from inadequate veterinary care to improper cleaning techniques to substandard practices in housing animals. Not one of these audits was mentioned by Mayor Garcia during the State of the City.

\*\*The audits revealed that animals at LBACS are getting a shockingly low amount of care -- only 6 minutes of daily care per animal per day, when the industry standard is nearly 3 times that.

\*\*The audits were a terrible indictment of the way that LBACS operates, and almost immediately after the audits were published, it was announced that the current manager was leaving (no surprise here - the City has hired inexperienced and unqualified shelter managers for at least a decade, if not longer.) Clearly, the City Auditor's uncovering 186 significant problems at the shelter had something to do with the manager's departure. We're glad that there will be a new manager, but how that changes LBACS remains to be seen.

\*\*While the raw number of euthanasias decreased very slightly in 2018, the actual percentage of animals killed at LBACS increased. LBACS killed a larger proportion of animals in 2018 than in 2017 because LBACS took in 800 fewer animals. With fewer animals, there is less work to do, and yet LBACS managed to kill a larger percentage of the animals they impounded in 2018, going from an 81% live release rate in 2017 to a 79% live release in 2018. This was the first reversal in the live release rate since at least 2012. It is a clear step backward.

\*\*Mayor Garcia cited a decrease in euthanasias over the past 5 years, but failed to point out