



City of La Quinta

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Patrick Griffin, Interim Finance Director

DATE: April 1, 2014

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT

At the March 18, 2014 City Council meeting, Mr. Jose Pineda requested that the Council waive a penalty he incurred for his dog license renewal. The following is a chronology of events relating to this matter:

January 28, 2014 – The City mailed a renewal notice to Mr. Pineda’s home, indicating that renewal of his pet’s dog license was due prior to the license expiration date of March 9, 2014.

February 28, 2014 – The City mailed a second renewal notice to Mr. Pineda’s home, again indicating that his pet’s dog license was due prior to the license expiration date of March 9, 2014.

March 11, 2014 – Ms. Glendy Pineda came to the Finance Department to pay for the license. Since it was two days after the license expiration date, staff informed her that a late fee would apply. Ms. Pineda indicated that since the license was only two days past due, she didn’t think that it would matter. Staff reviewed the information on the renewal notice with Ms. Pineda and specifically noted the due date outlined on the notice. Ms. Pineda asked to have the penalty waived, and staff explained that City employees do not have the authority to waive penalties. Ms. Pineda inquired as to who has authority and staff explained that it was at the City Council level.

March 18, 2014 – Mr. Pineda approached the Council during Public Comments to ask for a waiver of the \$20 late penalty for his pet’s dog

license. Council did not take formal action on the item, but referred it back to staff via the City Manager.

March 18, 2014 – Glendy and Jose Pineda came to the Finance counter after going before the City Council, indicating to staff that the City Council had waived their penalty and that they wanted to go ahead and pay for a one year license. After reviewing their documents, staff informed them that the license could only be renewed through October 25, 2014, which is the expiration date of their rabies certificate. Ms. Pineda then asked what would happen if they simply left, and then returned in October to obtain a dog license, to which staff responded that the amount due would be the one year fee plus the \$20 late fee. At that point, they left City Hall, without obtaining a dog license.

At this time, the Pineda's pet does not have a current dog license.

According to Section 3.28.330 of the Municipal Code, staff must have the consent of the City Council to "compromise any claims as to amount of license tax due."