



THE POLICE COMMISSIONER
CITY OF NEW YORK

February 7, 2014

Honorable Tony Avella
Senator – 11th District
New York State Senate
38-50 Bell Boulevard, Suite C
Bayside, NY 11361

Dear Senator Avella:

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding the transfer of humane law enforcement responsibilities from the ASPCA to the NYPD. Your letter expresses interest in a description of the training that will be given to members of the NYPD and the protocols that will be implemented to ensure that laws and regulations are enforced, specifically in the monitoring of the horse drawn carriage industry.

On January 1, 2014 the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) relinquished its voluntary duties of investigating reports of animal abuse. Through a partnership with the ASPCA, the NYPD is taking over investigations of all animal abuse complaints in the City of New York. Although the ASPCA stopped investigating these incidents, they will commit numerous resources to support the Department in enforcing animal cruelty laws.

The Department will work with the ASPCA to publicly communicate about the Department's role in the investigation of animal abuse complaints. For its part, the ASPCA operates a toll-free telephone line to provide information and assistance to the Department, provides housing and veterinary care for animals seized by the Department, and provides forensic, legal, and investigative assistance.

Uniformed members of the NYPD on patrol will initially investigate all complaints of animal abuse (whether received through 911, 311 or from the ASPCA) and take enforcement action when necessary.

Cases requiring the expertise of the Detective Bureau will be referred to the precinct detective squad, and complaints of organized crime involving animal abuse will be forwarded to the Organized Crime Control Bureau.

The Department has coordinated with representatives from New York City's 311 system to ensure the proper routing of complaints of animal abuse. The 311 system has implemented a new service solely for the complaints of animal abuse, which is currently in use.

Members of the Department's Training Bureau have collaborated with representatives from the ASPCA and developed precinct level training regarding these new responsibilities. The training was presented to precinct training sergeants in December 2013. The training sergeants are responsible for disseminating the information to members of their command.

The Department is utilizing a \$2 million grant from the ASPCA to further train all officers involved in the response and investigation of animal abuse on applicable laws and scenarios related to animal care and to purchase equipment related to the humane handling of animals.

Specific to the horse drawn carriage industry, the ASPCA also relinquished their proactive operations of hack line inspections and carriage horse stable inspections. There are four stables in New York City, two in the confines of the 10th Precinct and two in the confines of Midtown North Precinct. Although these duties fall within the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), regarding its licensing of rental horses, and the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA), regarding its licensing of carriage horse operators, the Department is currently evaluating the possibility of conducting stable and hack line inspections and enforcing extreme weather restrictions.

Thank you for your continued support of the New York City Police Department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William J. Bratton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William J. Bratton
Police Commissioner

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CITIES
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COMMITTEES
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THE SENATE
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January 6, 2014

BY FAX & MAIL

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Office of the Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Hon. William Bratton
Commissioner
New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Bratton:

I am reaching out to you regarding the recent transfer of humane law enforcement responsibilities from the ASPCA to the NYPD.

Given the complex nature of many of the humane law enforcement laws and regulations, I would appreciate you advising me on the specifics of this transfer of responsibility, including a description of the training that will be given to members of the NYPD and the protocols that will be implemented to ensure that these important laws and regulations are properly enforced throughout the city.

I am also particularly concerned about these responsibilities and how they will be applied to the horse drawn carriage industry including who will be responsible for monitoring the carriage horses, enforcing temperature restrictions and inspecting the stables, etc. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Avella".

Tony Avella
State Senator
11th Senatorial District