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For Immediate Release:

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## **MAYOR ANTONOVICH HANDS DOWN DEATH SENTENCE**

Today at 1:30 p.m., Mayor Antonovich and the Board of Supervisors heard arguments from the public in opposition to the Department of Animal Control's suggested amendments to its animal control ordinance. Though it should be noted that the word "heard" is used loosely, since the majority of the board, including the mayor himself, were either eating or talking on the phone while attorneys, a doctor, a dog behaviorist and other concerned members of the community spoke meaningfully about this issue and who waited over five hours to do so.

The public hearing ended with no discussion and not even thorough thought by the Board of Supervisors. Not a single question raised by any of the speakers was answered or even acknowledged. It was a far cry from a respectable democracy.

The amendments by the LA County Department of Animal Care and Control were made in an effort to kill more dogs, but that agenda was hidden by Director Marcia Mayeda, who didn't have the guts to respond honestly about the issues. Her attempt to hide their unconstitutional agenda was successful since none of the board members appeared to be listening anyway.

The Los Angeles County DACC broadened the term of "severe injury" to include any illness that may occur as a result of someone personally feeling threatened by a dog. This could include someone being merely frightened by a friendly dog, even if that feeling is completely irrational.

They also broadened what a "potentially dangerous" dog is. The Department's Director, Marcia Mayeda, in response to this proposed controversial new language has stated in several interviews, "if a dog's charging at you down the street and you jump on top of a car to get out of the way, that's a potentially dangerous dog." This could mean a death sentence for exuberant puppies chasing as part of a playful game.

Today attendees of the hearing witnessed a truly ironic performance by Mayor Antonovich as he posed for photos and smiled for the cameras with one dog, then turned around and issued a death sentence for hundreds of other dogs without so much as even looking the opposition in the face.

Some LA county citizens who left the hearing were heard saying that they were now terrified to even take their dogs outside.