

*Jeffrey Mausner
Tarzana, CA
February 20, 2016*

Department of City Planning
Marianne King
Marianne.King@lacity.org

Re: Letter in Support of Rockin' Rescue application for Variance to permit a Pet
Rescue/Adoption Center
Case No. ZA 2015-4447(ZV)

Dear Ms. King and Members of the Department of City Planning:

My name is Jeff Mausner. I'm a Board Member of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) and Chairman of its Animal Welfare Committee (AWC). I am also a Volunteer at the City West Valley Animal Shelter in Chatsworth and a retired attorney.

I am writing in support of Rockin' Rescue's application for Variance to permit a Pet Rescue/Adoption Center with ancillary pet grooming and animal boarding, and to allow nine on-site parking spaces in lieu of twenty-one parking spaces, Case No. ZA 2015-4447(ZV).

Rockin' Rescue is only about 2 blocks from the Tarzana border. Although Rockin' Rescue is located in Woodland Hills, the Tarzana Neighborhood Council strongly supports Rockin' Rescue's efforts to obtain the Variance, which will allow it to remain open in its current location at 19855 Ventura Blvd.

I believe Rockin' Rescue is the best animal rescue in the area. It is non-profit, and in fact costs the founder, Ady Gil, hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to operate. Rockin' Rescue has saved the lives of many dogs and cats who were about to be killed in City Shelters, and found them homes. It would be a tragedy if Rockin' Rescue is shut down. There are generally about 100 to 120 animals at Rockin' Rescue. If Rockin' Rescue had to close down, those animals would be brought to city shelters,

where many of them could be killed; or other animals would be killed to make room for the animals coming from Rockin' Rescue. And of course, Rockin' Rescue would be unable to save the lives of hundreds of dogs and cats in the future. This would be completely counter to the goal of the City of Los Angeles to become a no kill city by 2017.

It's not often that another neighborhood council will take a position on a zoning issue outside its boundaries. However, the Tarzana Neighborhood Council has done just that, because of the importance of Rockin' Rescue in saving the lives of dogs and cats in our neighborhoods, finding them homes, and offering our community a convenient and local place where families can adopt pets.

On October 13, 2015, the TNC Animal Welfare Committee unanimously passed the following resolution. A copy of this Resolution is at pages 1 and 2 of the attached materials, paragraph 7:

“Resolved that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee recommends that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council assist Rockin' Rescue in obtaining the change of use/zoning necessary to obtain a kennel permit.”

At its October 27, 2015 meeting, the full Board of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council unanimously adopted the following resolution, which is at page 3 of the attached materials, paragraph 8:

“Resolved: The TNC approves the Animal Welfare Committee recommendation that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council assist Rockin' Rescue in obtaining the change of use/zoning necessary to obtain a kennel permit.” The motion carried unanimously.

Pursuant to these Resolutions, I and other members of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee, as well as Tarzana Neighborhood Council President Leonard Shaffer, appeared at the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council (WHWCNC) PLUM Committee and full Neighborhood Council meetings, to speak in favor of the Variance. Volunteers from the West Valley Animal Shelter, Chairperson Debbie Kozin of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee, and other supporters of Rockin' Rescue were

also at the meetings. We presented a Petition supporting Rockin' Rescue's application, with **over 200 signatures obtained in about 2 weeks**. The Petition, with over 150 signatures, is being sent in a separate email, because it is so large. (Some of the pages of the Petition were brought to the WHWCNC meetings and presented without copies being made; those should be in the files of the WHWCNC.) Furthermore, we will provide additional signatures in support of Rockin' Rescue's application at the hearing on March 11.

On January 13, 2016, the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council unanimously voted in favor of the Variance, with two conditions consented to by Rockin' Rescue. The letter from the WHWCNC to the Los Angeles City Planning Department, dated January 15, 2016 (mistakenly shown as 2015), is page 7 of the attached materials. The letter states: **"After a presentation by the Applicant, the Neighborhood Council Board voted to approve both the Use Variance and the Parking Variance, with the following conditions consented to by the Applicant: ..."**

As you can see, there is *overwhelming community support for a variance* that will allow Rockin' Rescue to continue to operate at its current location, saving the lives of dogs and cats in our community, and providing a place where people can adopt rescued pets.

I'm a Volunteer at the West Valley Animal Shelter run by the City. That is the shelter that services both Woodland Hills and Tarzana. I know first-hand about dogs who were close to being killed at the shelter, due to lack of space or medical problems, that were taken in by Rockin' Rescue, and then adopted. Tarzana and Woodland Hills residents have adopted dogs, cats, and other animals at Rockin Rescue. We adopted our dog, Cookie, from Rockin' Rescue. She was about 11 or 12 years old when we adopted her -- she probably wouldn't have made it if it weren't for Rockin' Rescue. Pictures of Cookie and some of the other dogs and cats who have been saved by Rockin' Rescue are attached at pages 9-13.

The animals at Rockin' Rescue are always well taken care of and well treated. Some of the Volunteers at the West Valley Shelter are also volunteers at Rockin' Rescue,

where they take the dogs out for walks and exercise. The living quarters there are spectacular. The dogs get fresh barbecued meat or chicken most days.

Some background about Ady Gil, who runs Rockin' Rescue: He is a world famous animal rescuer and one of the finest people I know. He spends most of his time trying to help animals. He spends hundreds of thousands of dollars of his own money to keep Rockin' Rescue open. He recently donated \$2 million to set up an animal sanctuary in Israel and save more than 1200 monkeys. See pages 5-6 of the attached materials.

Rockin' Rescue is a world class animal rescue, something that Woodland Hills, Tarzana, and the entire City can really be proud of. It is known as an outstanding rescue throughout California and the country. It does not disturb any of its neighbors. I've been there many times, and it is always well maintained and there isn't any noise that would disturb anyone. It backs up to the 101 Freeway to the north; Ventura Boulevard and a shopping center are across the street to the south; Oakdale Avenue and a commercial property are to the west; and Rockin' Rescue's parking lot and commercial properties are to the east. Customers, volunteers, and employees at Rockin' Rescue frequent the businesses nearby. The Manager of Rockin' Rescue, Bari Fiore, tells me that many of Rockin' Rescue's neighbors are among the hundreds of people who have signed the Petition. I really can't say enough about Rockin' Rescue and Ady Gil, and very strongly urge you to approve their Application for Variance. On March 11th, you can go home and tell your family that you helped to save the lives of dogs and cats. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey N. Mausner

Chairman of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee,
Board Member of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council,
Volunteer at the West Valley Animal Shelter

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

**TARZANA
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
P.O. Box 571016
Tarzana, CA 91357



**TARZANA
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**
C/O Department of Neighborhood
Empowerment
200 N. Spring St. Suite 2005
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tnc@tarzananc.org
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MINUTES of the TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Tarzana Child Care Center
5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356,
Chairman - Jeffrey Mausner

Minutes of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) meeting, October 13, 2015, at the Tarzana Child Care Center, 5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356.

1. Call to Order & Welcoming Remarks. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 P.M. Attending were the following committee members: Deanna Dylan Scott, Mary Aratounian, Eva Brusa, Janet Mausner, and Jeffrey Mausner. Also attending were Volunteers from the West Valley Animal Shelter and Ady Gill, who runs Rockin' Rescue. The attached documents were distributed at the meeting.
2. Public Comments. The public comments related to the West Valley Shelter and Rockin' Rescue, so they were deferred to items 4 and 6 below.
3. Update and discussion on the killing of healthy adoptable animals at Los Angeles City animal shelters took place. Draft of the letter to Councilmen Blumenfield and Koretz regarding this was distributed for comment.
4. Update and discussion on other issues regarding the West Valley Animal Shelter took place: Lack of air conditioning in trucks used to transport animals was discussed. Michael Bell and his groups are dealing with this issue. We will assist in that matter if needed. Discussion of other matters regarding the West Valley Shelter took place.
5. Update and discussion on efforts to get the City to do a CEQA review in connection with the injunction against City participation in the Trap Neuter Release (TNR) program. Draft of the letter to Councilmen Blumenfield and Koretz regarding this was distributed for comment.
6. Update and discussion on the status of Rockin' Rescue's change of use/zoning change, warning to shut down; email from Brenda Barnette, General Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services, that Rockin' Rescue can continue to operate as long as they are still moving forward with their zoning request and the animals look well cared for.
7. Discussion and motion: **Resolved that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee recommends that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council assist Rockin' Rescue in obtaining the change of use/zoning necessary to obtain a kennel permit.**

Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Eva Brusa and seconded by Mary Aratounian. The motion to adopt the resolution passed unanimously, with Deanna Dylan Scott, Eva Brusa, Mary Aratounian, Janet Mausner, and Jeffrey Mausner voting in favor. No votes against or abstentions.

8. Update and discussion on the use of live chickens in religious observances.

9. Update and discussion on the status of panleukopenia (aka panleuk), a deadly cat disease.

10. Discussion of the possibility of implementing a program for nursing homes to adopt or foster dogs and/or cats.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

DRAFT
TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 7:00 PM
Tarzana Elementary School Auditorium
5726 Topeka Dr., Tarzana, CA 91356

1. **Call to Order** by Len Shaffer at 7:10 p.m. with welcoming remarks and Pledge of Allegiance. **Roll Call by Eran Heissler:** Leonard J. Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Paul Lawler, Jon Reich, David Garfinkle, Esther Wieder, Joyce Greene, Robin Correll, Susan Weidman, Allan Wertheim and Jeff Mausner. (Syed Hussaini arrived at 7:30 p.m.) A quorum of 11 was established.
 2. **Approval of minutes of September 29, 2015 meeting – (Heissler/Wertheim) moved to approve the minutes as amended.**
 3. **Remarks by representatives of public officials** Ariel from Councilmember Bob Blumenfield's office announced two upcoming events.
 4. **Public Comments:**
 - Lillian Wall, a realtor and stakeholder, asked about film crews filming in residential neighborhoods of Tarzana.
 - Varant Majarian expressed interest in a seat on the board.
 - Robert Shmaeff, who serves on the Transportation & Budget Committees, offered his experience to be appointed to the board.
 5. **Committee and other Reports**
 - Outreach** – Esther attended the Emergency Preparedness meeting saying it was a great event. She also attended Taste of Encino where TNC had a booth.
 - Land Use** – David said he would like to hold community meetings for better input on the Mansionization motion.
 - Transportation** – Eran read Max's report which included a proposal by DOT to make Valley Vista one way, a relocated MBA bus stop, a proposal for a new bus stop, and a request for CalTrans to clean freeway signs.
 - Animal Welfare** – Jeff gave a report that highlighted the temperature in the back of city Animal Services trucks, which are not air conditioned. It was noted that temps reached over 100 degrees in that back area where animals are transported. A new rule has been put into effect in the shelters prohibiting visitors from using the play yards with dogs to be adopted. However, there are opportunities for volunteers to take the dogs out of their kennels to socialize them with other dogs.
 - DWP MOU** – Joyce attended the DWP MOU meeting and reported on it. She requested that letters be written to the GM of DWP, the Mayor, and Council President Herb Wesson asking that no action be taken on the rate proposal until Dr. Pickles has enough information to make an opinion. There is supposed to be a vote on the rate increase in early Dec.
 6. **(Shaffer/Reich) moved that the TNC board approve the preliminary financial statements as of September 30, 2015. The motion carried unanimously.**
 7. **(Shaffer/Heissler) moved approval of the September, 2015 expenditures for submission to DONE (MER). The motion carried unanimously.**
 8. **(Mausner/Heissler) moved, "Resolved: The TNC approves the Animal Welfare Committee recommendation that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council assist Rockin' Rescue in obtaining the change of use/zoning necessary to obtain a kennel permit." The motion carried unanimously.**
- (Shaffer/Garfinkle) moved, "Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee recommendation to the Board to waive the³ TNC standing rules so the Board can discuss and**

vote Agenda Item 10 requesting CM Blumenfield to introduce a motion for an ICO governing mansionization in Tarzana to include the language and intent of CF- 0656 introduced by CM Paul Koretz limiting the bonuses that result in excessive FARs and applying special rules to small R-1 lots.”

Kathy Delle Donne gave background on this item. She recommended that it go back to the Land Use committee for extensive discussion and maybe a Town Hall meeting, as well.

Lillian Hall also felt more discussion was needed on the impact of this motion. She is opposed to it and feels that one size doesn't fit all.

The motion failed: 0-8 (4 abstaining)

11. **(Shaffer/Weidman) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee recommendation that if street vending is legalized in Los Angeles that it include an “opt in” provision allowing each City Council District to determine if street vending will be allowed within its boundaries.”**

David offered a friendly amendment to change the words “City Council District” to “Neighborhood Council District.” The amendment was accepted but Len requested a formal request be made to the change.

(Garfinkle/Shaffer) made a motion to change the words “City Council District” to “Neighborhood Council District.” The motion to amend carried 10-0 (2 abstaining).

The amended motion carried unanimously.

12. **(Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved, The TNC Board approves Executive Committee recommendation that the Board appoint Jeff Mausner the TNC Animal Welfare Representative.” The motion carried unanimously.**
13. **(Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves Executive Committee recommendation that the Board accept the resignation of Board Member Linda Safarian.” The motion carried unanimously.**
14. **(Shaffer/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves Executive Committee recommendation that the TNC November and December meetings be combined and be held on December 2, 2015.” The motion carried 11-1 (Hussaini)**

19. **President’s Remarks**

September VANC meeting – Len talked about the number of DWP staff attended the last VANC meeting, encouraging their support on the proposed rate increase. He talked about Councilmember Fuentes (CD7) who evicted STNC from using the municipal building for their office and meetings. VANC supported a motion that NCs be given preference for vacant city office space over other entities seeking to rent space. He also talked about a light rail proposal for the Orange Line by MTA.

Regional Emergency Preparedness Fair Oct 3, 2015 – Len spoke about the fair.

Regional Budget Day Oct 17th Braude Center – Len and Harvey attended.

20. **Board Member Comment -**

- Eran announced that this was Susan’s last meeting and wished her well, thanking her for her service.
- Joyce talked about a presentation she attended on sustainability.
- Len announced the formation of the Alliance for Emergency Preparedness on Nov. 21.

21. Adjournment at 8:50 p.m. - Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-

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NEWS FEB 14 2015, 12:54 PM ET

Ady Gil Pays \$2 Million to Save Monkeys Slated for U.S. Laboratories

by DAVE COPELAND

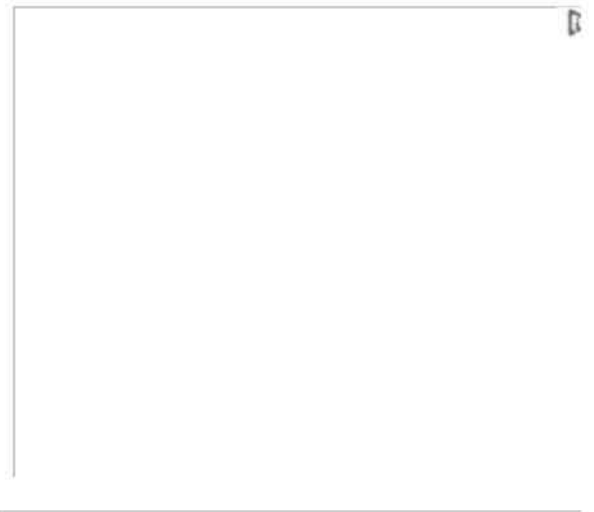


TEL AVIV, Israel — More than 1,200 monkeys have been saved from the horrors of laboratory testing after a U.S.-based conservationist paid \$2 million for them, activists said.

Businessman Ady Gil purchased the 1,250 long-tailed macaques from the secretive Mazor Farm in Israel, which had planned to shift its operation to Florida after Israel's laws governing wild animal exports changed in January.

Animal-rights activist Anat Refua battled for 16 years to save the primates. "These monkeys are now saved from such a cruel, cruel destiny, and I'm so happy," she told NBC News. "They will never separate a baby from a mother, which they've been doing here so many

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years."

The Israeli-born Gil said Mazor Farm, which is located near Ben Gurion airport, had shipped around 6,000 monkeys to laboratories worldwide at a price of \$3,500 each since it began operating in the early 1990s.



Two of more than 1,200 monkeys saved from of laboratory testing sit in an enclosure in Tel Aviv, Israel. Gil purchased the 1,250 long-tailed macaques from the secretive Mazor Farm, which had planned to shift its operation to Florida after Israel's laws governing wild animal exports changed in January. © Dave Copeland / NBC News

Hidden behind a security fence topped by barbed wire and shielded by a massive row of bougainvillea, the farm operated in secrecy for nearly a decade before it was exposed in 1999.

The end of the line was signaled two years ago when Israel's environment minister, an animal-rights sympathizer, announced changes to the country's wild animal export laws.

Gil said the operation had plans to sell the monkeys to laboratories in the U.S. More than 125,000 primates are kept in U.S. laboratories, according to animal-

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January 15, 2015

Los Angeles City Planning Department – Valley Office
Office of Zoning Administration
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Room 351
Van Nuys, CA 91401

Attention: Rony Giron

sent via email: rony.giron@lacity.org

RE: CASE NO. ZA 2015-4447-ZV

Project Name: Rockin' Pet Rescue

Project Address: 19885 Ventura Bl. Woodland Hills, CA 91364

On January 13, 2016, the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council (“WHWCNC”) met with the representatives for Rockin’ Pet Rescue operated by Ady Gil World Conservation (“Applicant”) located at 19885 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA., regarding their application for the issuance of a Use Variance to permit the proposed use of the property as a pet rescue/adoption center with ancillary services of pet grooming and boarding in the C-1-1VLD Zone in lieu of the current restrictions prohibiting such use. Additionally the Applicant is asking for a Parking Variance for this site from 21 required parking stalls to nine (code compliant) parking stalls.

After a presentation by the Applicant, the Neighborhood Council Board voted to approve both the Use Variance and the Parking Variance, with the following conditions consented to by the Applicant:

1.) The Zoning Administrator shall stipulate that the parking variance is contingent on and personal to the premises being occupied and operated by Ady Gil World Conservation, a 501C3 non-profit organization (dba) Rockin’ Pet Rescue, and that the parking variance expires and returns to its original zoning restrictions upon vacation of the premises by the Ady Gil World Conservation organization.

2.) Within 60-days of granting the above requested variances, a permanent barrier shall be attached to the existing kennel enclosures located along Ventura Boulevard and the side street. This additional layer of “fencing” shall be installed as a safety precaution to restrict pedestrians on the sidewalk from inserting fingers or objects into the kennel enclosures. The additional material shall be at least 48” in height from grade, contain no openings larger than ¼ inch, and shall be maintained by Applicant.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council

Scott Silverstein
President

Cc: Andrew Pennington, Planning Deputy, Office of LA City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, CD3:
andrew.pennington@lacity.org

Brad Rosenheim, brad@raa-inc.com

Karen Koe, WHWCNC, Chair PLUM, WHWCNC

Martin Lipkin, WHWCNC, Vice-Chair PLUM, WHWCNC

WOODLAND HILLS - WARNER CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

20929 Ventura Boulevard Suite 47-535, Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Toll Free 888. 680.7770 | Local & Fax 818. 484.3270 | www.whcouncil.org

(Please return to Jeff@MausnerLaw.com)

To the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council - Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM)

We, the undersigned, very strongly support Rockin' Rescue's efforts to obtain the variance/change of use/zoning necessary to remain open in its current location at 19855 Ventura Blvd.

We think Rockin' Rescue is the best animal rescue in the area. Rockin' Rescue is a non-profit organization that is mainly funded by Ady Gil. It serves the community of Woodland Hills and the entire city of Los Angeles, by taking dogs and cats from the Los Angeles City Shelters, and finding them loving homes. Rockin' Rescue has saved the lives of many dogs and cats who were about to be killed at the West Valley Shelter, provided medical care for them, and made sure that they were adopted. It would be a tragedy if Rockin' Rescue is shut down. There are about 120 animals there now. If Rockin' Rescue had to close down, those animals would be brought to city shelters, where many of them could be killed; or other animals could be killed to make room for the animals coming from Rockin' Rescue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signature and Name

Neighborhood

Contact Information

**OVER 200 SIGNATURES OBTAINED IN LESS THAN A WEEK.
SUBMITTED SEPARATELY.**











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PARKING

Dog and Cat adoption
7 days a week
BRING HIM HOME

AGWC
ANIMAL RESCUE CENTER

ROCKIN' RESCUES P