Released by Flagler County in response to a public records request by Palm Coast Storylines, Nov. 2, 2026. Text as released; remote signature images and link-tracking URLs omitted. Attachment (photo) shown at the end.

From: Leann Pennington <LPennington@flaglercounty.gov>
To: "Adam Mengel, AICP, LEED AP BD+C" <amengel@flaglercounty.gov>, "Sean S. Moylan" <smoylan@flaglercounty.gov>
Date: Mon, 02 Nov 2026 15:43:54 +0000
Subject: FW: cost of lowering quality and quantity of service

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From R Keirnan

Good morning,

Re: your request.

I was not copied on this email to the BoCC, but I can access Commissioner mailboxes.

I've forwarded the copy received by the Chair.

Thank you,

Rose

From: Amy Carotenuto <acarotenuto@flaglerhumanesociety.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 1, 2026 11:16 AM
To: Leann Pennington <LPennington@flaglercounty.gov>; Andy Dance <adance@flaglercounty.gov>; Greg Hansen <ghansen@flaglercounty.gov>; Kim Carney <KCarney@flaglercounty.gov>; Pam Richardson <PRichardson@flaglercounty.gov>
Subject: cost of lowering quality and quantity of service

Hello County Commissioners,

Hope you are enjoying your weekend. A quick note before tomorrow's meeting.....I understand the need to tighten budgets, and I respect that you have many priorities beyond animal issues. However, based on decades of experience, I can tell you that skimping on animal control services will cost far more in the long run, both financially and in lives.

When we are called out to the field, we are simultaneously offering services. Unsterilized animals are hormonally driven to escape to mate. We educate owners to that fact and help them spay/neuter pets. Sterilization alone may solve their problem. Unsterilized animals allowed to roam will procreate. Many citizens fail to vaccinate, so the

young become sick and the shelter fills up with puppies and kittens.

Responding only to complaints of abuse misses most cruelty cases. The vast majority don't begin as cruelty calls. They start as nuisance complaints about barking, and when we respond, we often find dogs in distress. Others begin with a report of a loose dog.

Consider the photo below of one of three puppies our Officer Jankowski picked up on October 23rd. The original call was about three stray dogs. When we told the caller we could no longer respond to stray calls, he sent this photo. We knew we had to act, regardless of whether the County was doing its part. The puppies are now thriving at the shelter and gaining weight daily. Without our animal services department, they would not have survived.

Unaddressed stray calls become public safety risks. A hungry, frightened, unsocialized lost dog can become aggressive. Left unhandled, lost dogs can eventually form packs, which is extremely dangerous.

Our officers are trained and equipped to handle multiple species, including injured or sick wildlife. Animals in pain are likely to bite. We have the equipment and training to protect ourselves; the public does not. A well-meaning citizen attempting to rescue an injured raccoon is at serious risk. Over the years, we have safely handled dozens of rabies-positive animals, primarily raccoons but also skunks, bats, foxes, and even a cat.

If a citizen is bitten by a rabid animal while trying to help because we were unable to respond, who bears responsibility?

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further so that we can come up with a common sense agreement in which the professionals are allowed to do what we do best - protecting animals and people.

Amy Carotenuto

Executive Director

Flagler Humane Society

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1 Shelter Dr, Palm Coast, FL 32137

The Florida Animal Protection & Advocacy Association

Board Member

Past President

Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations

Board Member

Attachment: potatoville Rd pup.jpg

