96 Basin Park Drive – PO Box 1834
Gunnison, CO 81230
970-641-1173

July 23, 2018

Mr. Matthew Birnie
Gunnison County Manager
200 E. Virginia Avenue
Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League (GVAWL) lease request

Dear Matthew:

Many thanks for your patience, and for giving me the time to collect the information I believe you, and the Board of County Commissioners, have been asking for from GVAWL. Taking over as Board President in January 2018, one of my first priorities was to secure a long-term lease. In my initial meeting with David Baumgarten, it became clear to me that GVAWL had not been providing the County the information we agreed to on a regular basis.

I am attaching 3 spreadsheets showing data accumulated from 2016, 2017 and 2018. As you will readily see, our record keeping has been sporadic until 2018. However, the information for 2018, as collected through June 23, is reflective of our most accurate records for this year, and this information will be provided to you annually as requested. I am most grateful to Linda Nienhueser and Rachel Magruder for their time and guidance, and their review of this information to date. Given the statistics provided, I believe that our costs of running the shelter on an annual basis more than offset the County rent amount. Please note – the $20/day value is based on the GVAWL daily cost of running the shelter as set by the Board and reviewed annually. It is the same amount paid to us by the City of Gunnison for their intakes, and by owners picking up their animals that are brought to us as strays (Returned to Owner).

Rachel suggested I include a brief history of the shelter build costs, and where those monies came from. The building was completed in 2014. Per the Gunnison Valley Animal Shelter Agreement dated October 15, 2013 and other GVAWL file documentation, estimated building cost, including loan interest, was approximately $600,000 and was funded as follows (estimated amounts):

-$100,000 seed money from Jack and Marilyn MacAllister Family Foundation
-$125,000 City of Gunnison funding
-$50,000 Animal Assistance Foundation Grant
-$220,000 loan at GB&T - $100,000 funding from County (posted to interest first, then principal)
-$80,000 raised by GVAWL
-$145,000 balance of loan paid by Sue MacAllister estate bequest

The future is bright for GVAWL! We are exceeding animal count projections for 2018 and are solidifying duties for our new part-time Shelter Manager. Relinquished animals are at an all-time high, which translates to

less animals on the streets. We have added 2 new board members, one has 10 years manager experience with a local resort and the other is a local CPA. We are enjoying a solid working relationship with the City of Gunnison, and just received a large grant from the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley. We continue strong partnerships with local veterinarians, giving us the ability to continue our low-cost spay/neuter program. Our GVAWL Silver Whiskers program matches fixed-income seniors with animal companions at little or no cost, and we hope to establish a similar program soon through the Veterans Services department.

I would respectfully request a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss securing a new 20-year lease, under similar terms as our current lease, and renewable upon agreement in 20-yr increments.

Sincerely,

Kathy MacAllister
Board President
Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League