



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Frank Mateljan
(213) 978-8340 (O)

L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO SEEKS REVOCATION OF ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP'S STATUS AS HUMANE SOCIETY

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his office has filed a motion asking the Los Angeles Superior Court to revoke the endorsement of Animal Cruelty Investigations (ACI) as a humane society organization based on new evidence of prior militant animal rights behavior by a high ranking organization member and the lack of necessity for an additional humane society of this type in Los Angeles County.

In February 2007, ACI submitted a Petition for Incorporation along with 20 signatures from organization members seeking endorsement from the Los Angeles Superior Court as a humane society without notice to the City Attorney's Office. On April 10, the Court issued its order endorsing ACI's articles of Incorporation. Under the Corporations Code, ACI is now eligible to request confirmation of the appointment of humane officers who would have authority similar to that of police officers, such as authority to carry firearms, serve warrants and make arrests.

As part of its opposition, the City Attorney's office noted that ACI's chief executive officer Frank Allen was previously convicted of, and served a one year jail sentence for, felony attempted arson arising from a 1997 incident involving illegal animal-rights related activities. Allen was arrested by Orange County Sheriff's Deputies after attempting to ignite bales of hay next to a Mission Viejo High School agriculture classroom. He failed to disclose this conviction in his declaration in support of ACI's petition.

In July and September 2007, Allen on behalf of ACI, reported alleged violations at a quail farm in Sun Valley. After a thorough investigation by the Animal Cruelty Taskforce and the California Department of Food and Agriculture, investigators concluded the reports were unfounded and no violations of animal-welfare laws were being violated.

The City Attorney's office is requesting the court either void its Order endorsing ACI's Articles of Incorporation or conduct an evidentiary hearing to allow development of a complete and accurate factual record on which to evaluate the merits of issuing the order.

A hearing for the motion has been scheduled for February 4 in Division 100 of Los Angeles Superior Court.