

The Township of Hamilton

Kelly A. Yaede
Mayor

November 20, 2018

VIA EMAIL ONLY Shereef.Elnahal@doh.nj.gov
Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Commisisoner
Department of Health

RE: Hamilton Animal Shelter

Dear Commissioner Elnahal,

On November 15, 2018, we received from the State Department of Health a fully satisfactory inspection report concerning the Hamilton Animal Shelter. On November 19, 2018, we received correspondence from the State purporting to withdraw that satisfactory finding.

I am shocked that the State would attempt to withdraw the satisfactory report issued on November 14, 2018. On two separate occasions, Dr. Campbell advised that the only item outstanding was his meeting with Dr. Boden, our supervising veterinarian. When that meeting occurred on November 14, 2018, Dr. Campbell advised us, in the presence of Dr. Boden and her attorney, Michael Sawka, that he would issue the satisfactory rating, and he did so.

We now must question whether the State is incompetent or if this is an orchestrated campaign against Hamilton Township and its employees. The State had never inspected the Hamilton shelter, which has been in existence for over 40 years, until July 16, 2018. That inspection came just days after an inspection by the West Windsor Health Department, at the recommendation of Dr. Campbell, which found the shelter was satisfactory. The West Windsor inspection was conducted by a registered environmental health specialist, licensed by the State of New Jersey.

To our knowledge, Linda Frese is not a registered environmental health specialist. According to Dr. Campbell, only registered environmental health specialists are qualified to perform such inspections.

Rather than dispute the claims made in the first report, many of which were inaccurate, the Township promptly addressed all concerns.

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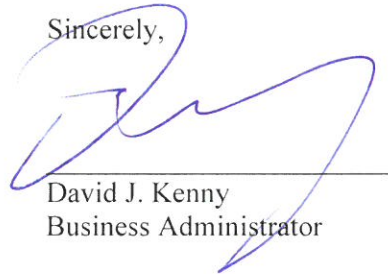
In the second report, Ms. Frese noted as violation the absence of a fire inspection certificate and a certificate of local inspection. (I would note that Ms. Frese at the conclusion of the second inspection assented to Dr. Campbell's comments that nothing needed to be done other than the meeting with the veterinarian.) The fire inspection certificate had been updated, but was not yet posted, while the West Windsor inspection certificate was posted.

Ms. Frese cite NJAC 1.3(f) and notes that sheds had been ordered. There is nothing cited in her report which would violate the aforementioned regulation she cites. She claims in the report that the amount of water used in disinfecting was not accurately measured. She failed to take those measurements, which disclose that the sinks hold 13 gallons and that 13 tablets, the recommended amount, were being used.

We will not recount the other mistakes and conclusory statements made in the reports, but would be happy to discuss them with you.

There is no valid basis on which the "satisfactory" finding has purportedly been revoked. We ask that it be reinstated. If there is a further inspection, it should be performed by a licensed registered environmental health specialist, as Hamilton Township did.

Sincerely,



David J. Kenny
Business Administrator



Jeffrey Plunkett
Health Officer

DJK:cad

cc: Dr. Colin T. Campbell, DVM, CPM, State Public Health Veterinarian (Colin.campbell@doh.nj.gov)