



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

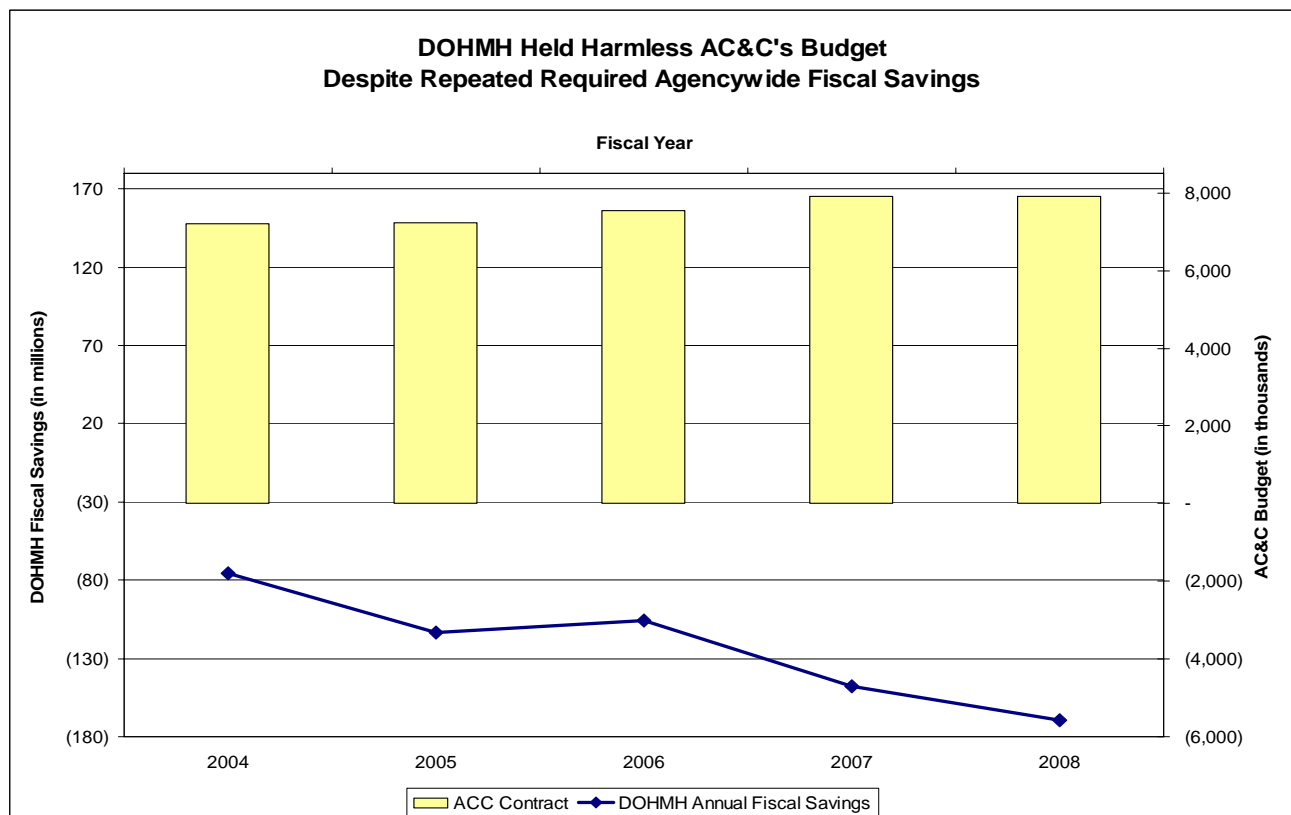
nyc.gov/health

July 20, 2007

Dear Mr. Kaskel,

AC&C's funding is important for the City and for the Department. The news articles you forwarded feature the City's current budget surplus, but do not point out the City's large budget gaps in the future. DOHMH does not expect to enlarge its budget, despite what some news stories imply. But, there are several other ways in which the city has expanded – and continues to expand – funding for AC&C.

There were substantial cuts to the DOHMH budget in fiscal years 2003 and 2004, which included reductions to AC&C as well as tobacco control, school health and other critical programs. However, for the past four fiscal years, DOHMH has been required to contribute a cumulative total of \$612 million in City fiscal savings, but has held constant or increased its funding of AC&C. To hold AC&C harmless, proportionately larger reductions were taken from other programs. In addition, since AC&C is funded completely by City Tax Levy dollars (unlike public health programs that receive a 36% match from New York State), this represents an exceptional commitment. If AC&C were a separate agency, in all likelihood it would not have been insulated from these substantial budget reductions.



To summarize the information above:

- The AC&C contract was reduced during FY02 - FY04 from \$8.2 million to \$7.2 million.
- Since then, the AC&C contract has been held harmless in the face of City savings mandates, and has gradually increased to \$7.82 million as of the beginning of FY08.
- Over the same period FY04 - 08, the annual value of mandated City Tax Levy savings, in order to meet the City's financial plan, have grown from approx \$80M in FY04 to nearly \$170M in FY08.
- The gross impact of these mandated City savings on non-AC&C DOHMH programs is even greater, once the loss of State matching funds is considered.

In addition, DOHMH has worked to fund salary increases for AC&C staff. Wage increases were funded in fiscal years 2005 and 2006. This year, again, AC&C reached a new agreement with its employees that will increase wages and salaries across the board; this will also be funded by the Department.

Finally, in the past several years, City resources, including Council Member, Borough President and DOHMH sources, have provided AC&C with tens of millions of dollars of resources and support in addition to the funds mentioned above. This includes:

- Eminent domain payments for Manhattan and Brooklyn shelters (approx. \$15 million, one-time)
- capital improvements for the Manhattan shelter (approx \$4.8 million, one-time)
- capital improvements for the Staten Island shelter (approx \$500,000)
- new vans outfitted with cages (approx. \$500,000)
- funding for the Staten Island rabies vaccination campaign (approx. \$100,000)
- facilities maintenance and repairs (approx \$160,000, over 2 years)
- rent for Bronx and Queens facilities (more than \$400,000, over 6 years)
- other facilities-related costs (more than \$147,000, over 6 years)

Anyone is welcome to advocate for an increase in AC&C's budget. DOHMH continues to provide resources to the extent that we can find the funds. And, as you know, City Council members and borough presidents have access to both capital and expense funds. Expanding spay/neuter, increasing salaries, and staffing new full-service shelters in the Bronx and Queens once sites have been established are key future directions for AC&C.

Thank you for your continued concern for New York City's animals. I hope that the information in this letter gives you a better understanding of the many ways in which the City of New York supports AC&C's work.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner