



Pensacola Humane Society Addresses Employee Allegations

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Responding to recent accusations by its employees of alleged mismanagement, the Pensacola Humane Society's board of directors has hired two professional organizations to help mediate the dispute.

In a statement released Monday morning, the Humane Society said the hiring moves are the result of the board's frustration over its attempts to communicate directly with "We The Organization," the group of employees and volunteers who leveled the accusations earlier this month.

To investigate and resolve financial concerns raised by We The Organization, the board has hired Pensacola-based accounting firm Saltmarsh Cleaveland & Gund.

And, in an effort to open lines of communication with the group, the board has hired Linda Edwards, a Tallahassee-based employment and labor relations attorney.

The board's statement said Edwards was hired to "... make every attempt to arrive at a professional and logical resolution to the concerns of We The Organization. The board firmly believes we can resolve these issues, but only if both parties are willing to communicate on a good-faith basis.

"Furthermore, we do not believe the financial allegations this group has raised are true. But the only way to find out is to get We The Organization to produce the documents we've asked for and work with Saltmarsh to help us arrive at a professional and agreed-upon conclusion."

The statement contends the Humane Society's board of directors and We The Organization have the same goal: To continue the Pensacola Humane Society's 80-year mission of serving and protecting animals.

"We sincerely want the Pensacola community and our donor base to continue its long-held trust, confidence and support of the Humane Society."

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