DeLand Florida’s Day in Infamy: An Unjust Invasion

City Staff and Police Brutalize Non-Profit, Steal Over $11,000 in Private Property

By Animal Rescue Konsortium, Inc. Board of Directors

A true account of violence, fraud, and abuse of power;
A frightening tale of intrigue and corruption.

Deputy Chief Randel Henderson to the West Volusia Beacon:

“We had a rescue group take possession of an estimated 40 cats. We were jokingly calling the officers corralling the cats ‘cat wranglers.’ I would love to see the video.”
DeLand police illegally confiscated ARK dogs that were walked five times a day at ARK’s Rescue Center by volunteers including Stetson students. Many were cruelly dragged into the dog pound truck and hauled to the West Volusia Humane Society. They were incarcerated in filthy cages with no human interaction, no sunlight, no freedom to run.
Three years later the derelict WVHS continues to be a front as it has been for almost two decades, for warehousing and imprisoning innocent dogs and cats, a partner with DeLand in hurting animals.
Once animals enter its gates they are rarely saved. Give the wretched place a call and see where you get.

“You have to quit confusing a madness with a mission.”
Flannery O’Connor, The Violent Bear It Away
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704 Willow Crest Street
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DeLand Commissioners and Staff 2011-2014

President Harry Truman: “The Buck Stops Here.”

City Commissioners (L-R): Leigh Matusick, Phil Martin, Mayor Bob Apgar, Vonzelle Johnson, Charles Paiva

(B): Michael Pleus, City Manager

(L): Dale Manager

Arrington, Asst. City
(T) Darren Elkind,
City Attorney
Paul, Elkind, & Branz

(L-R): Chief William Ridgeway; Matt Adair, Building and Code

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”

– Abraham Lincoln
DeLand Mission Statement, Vision, and Values

**Mission:** "We are dedicated to work in partnership with our citizens to improve the quality of life for all." ¹

**Vision:** (Read the section on Crime in this story to prove how far off the city is with its “vision.”)
- Our citizens will trust and respect the Department and view it as responsive to them.
- DeLand will have one of the lowest crime rates in Central Florida.
- The law enforcement community will recognize DeLand PD as a premier agency.
- DeLand PD will be accredited and will be a professionally rewarding place to work.

**Values:** Pride * Respect * Integrity * Courtesy * Excellence

**Code of Ethics:** NONE

**Behavior:** Machiavellian Tactics Practiced by DeLand City Hall and Police

“Political power is everything. The end justifies the means. However unscrupulous, attain the upper hand even if that means deception, treachery, and lies. For the true Machiavellian, every action relates to this goal: all associations, all conversations, all friendships and activities are devoted to accomplishing this end.

The old notions of chivalry and trust are dead. Enemies are defeated not by force but...betrayal. Of catching an opponent off guard, of false promises and adroit dealing. The key to the system is information. Through spy networks and espionage, it is obtained at all costs and by any method.”

--Sir Anthony Parkhurst, Principall Navigations, 1589

¹ http://www.deland.org
Introduction

“For such is the malice of wicked men, the Devil’s instruments...that they cannot suffer anything...to proceed and prosper...” - Sir Anthony Parkhurst, Principall Navigations, 1589

The militarization and brutality of the police force in America is escalating. Cops are hurting, even killing innocent people. Each week new stories surface. But police do not act alone; they are supported by their local government. The following brutal account exemplifies, in minute detail, what a corrupt police force and immoral city staff can and will do when they believe they have ultimate power.

The Greyhound bus rolled out of DeLand and it isn’t returning unless the city builds Greyhound a terminal office; its departure a loss for residents of West Volusia. Greyhound waited patiently then gave up as it took DeLand over a decade to get its act together to construct the “Intermodal Transportation System” – an exaggerated name for an extravagant project of concrete, a metal canopy, and restroom.

The original project was to consist of Greyhound, Votran, a bike shop, café, and more. Completed February 7, 2014, the city lacked funds to construct the Greyhound office. So now the Two Million Dollar Boondoggle, an outrageous waste of public funds, is used but a few times daily for the county’s Votran bus.

Now backtrack to 2012. If a governmental entity desires private property for public use it has four options: (1) Offer to purchase the property; (2) Invoke eminent domain but compensate the owner at fair market value; (3) Use military force to raid and destroy the property owners’ business and good name, bankrupt the business, then sweep in to purchase the property at a nominal price when it goes into foreclosure. However there is a more insidious tactic to obtain personal property to increase city coffers; a scheme used consistently and without scruples by police and governmental entities: (4) Arrest the property owner for criminal activity in order to invoke a law unfamiliar to the general public; a law that brings millions to city hall - “The Civil Asset Forfeiture Law.” Was this the City of DeLand’s “Perfect Plan” for obtaining a Greyhound office?

For five months prior to the city’s illicit raid on ARK’s property November 2012, city staff, their attorney, and police orchestrated a conspiracy of harassment, false accusations, and doctored videos in an attempt to destroy ARK, one of the most successful animal rescue organizations in Florida. In fact, ARK and the city were partnered to rescue animals after ARK’s founder pressed the city to go “No Kill” three years earlier.

After the raid city officials and their attorney lied in court against ARK. Six months after the raid, appropriately April Fool’s Day, city staff were emailing each other regarding the ownership of ARK’s property. When they discovered ARK no longer owned it they set their sights to harass FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital, the new owner. Were they that desperate for the land? Their screams across the wire were unknown to taxpayers’ footing the bill until public record requests indicated city staffs’ “concern.”

Ten months after the raid, still unable to justify why they raided ARK and stole property worth over $10,000, city staff attempted to negotiate with the state’s attorney to indict ARK’s president for animal cruelty. The city needed ARK’s building to enhance its bus station by enticing back into town the big name - Greyhound. City employees, those inside the beltway, saw and heard “secret meetings,” hushed discussions with staff, attorney, the mayor, and police chief. A former secretary told ARK volunteers, “You have no idea what happens here; no one does.” Others didn’t come forward until long after the raid, too frightened to make a public statement. After all, if the city can destroy a successful non-profit and its volunteers, steal their property, and get away with it, imagine what it could do to city employees in need of a job?

2 Blunner, R. E., “Police too addicted to lure of easy money,” St. Petersburg Times, p. 7D, 8.17.03
3 She remains anonymous for fear of job security elsewhere and for her life. 2.12.13
4 An anonymous email from a city employee to M. Hall, 4.2.14
For months the state’s attorney repeatedly asked the city attorney, Darren Elkind, for proof ARK was abusing animals. And repeatedly Elkind promised evidence was forthcoming. Elkind lied, failing miserably because **DeLand never had proof of animal cruelty.** And since DeLand has no Code of Ethics there was no need to be honest, to be ethical.

Save for City Hall’s Staff, Commissioners, and Cops, DeLand is a unique community, culturally rich due to the city’s museums, artists, festivals, shops, churches, schools, restaurants and Stetson University’s Faculty. For over a century residents have protected the “small town” atmosphere harkening back to the 1880s when DeLand was known as Persimmon Hollow.

But things are changing as City Hall sells DeLand’s soul to developers and residents wonder whose palms are being greased. Even the mayor for over a decade, Bob Apgar, has suspicious real estate dealings with the city manager, Michael Pleus, information purged from the tax records. And it’s the same with the police chief and assistant, Ridgeway and Batten – real estate dealings also purged from tax records. City commissioners are approving the demolition of historic structures in town and on Stetson’s campus at the Stetson administration’s request, eradicating DeLand’s heritage for future generations.

Old growth trees are cut, replaced with quick growth myrtles. DeLand has one of the highest tax rates in Florida as Stetson escalates its land grab causing taxpayers to be hit with higher tax rates. Colossal downtown construction encouraged and approved by city staff will increase traffic density to an unprecedented and unmanageable volume.

DeLand’s dark side, its underbelly, is rarely scratched and seldom revealed. The story told here exposes an undercurrent of corruption and abuse of power; of persecution for those who don’t step in line with city hall; of a city hall and police department with racist, sexist, moralistic undertones, and mean spirited employees. It is a town where public officials attempt to annihilate those who dare push back against the power brokers; where they destroy the credibility of new faces running for public office.

DeLand is a town that fights small businesses and new ideas and where city hall has its talons tightly entwined with the non-profit Main Street DeLand Association, the Chamber of Commerce, and the local newspaper, the *West Volusia Beacon;* the interconnectedness alarming. The *Beacon’s* owner received public funds for potentially private use and the city manager’s wife is employed by the paper.

Dig deep and be surprised at what is uncovered.

Good leadership is lost as one city employee after another leaves for more serene fields, reasons not made public as they slip quietly away. People with integrity don’t want to work in the type of environment rampant at city hall; a workplace dominated by power hungry overbearing white males.

DeLand has serious problems. People are afraid to speak out. When a successful downtown commercial real estate broker confided in Maggi Hall, ARK’s President, with his and others’ litany of complaints against DeLand’s Staff, Hall questioned, “Why don’t you do something about it? City personnel are OUR employees. We pay their salaries.”

His perceptive response, “They don’t see it that way. Look at what happened to you and ARK.”

Yes, let’s look now at what happened to DeLand’s partnership with ARK and a respected community leader. November 8, 2012 the desperation of city officials surfaced. Using taxpayers’ money, city personnel set out to destroy ARK; a treachery costing taxpayers over $20,000, the theft of $11,000 in private property, and a determination by staff to put ARK’s President Maggi Hall, behind bars.

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5 Documents obtained through an attorney, 3.12.14
6 Conversation with Pat Johnson, 4.2.14
7 Information from Scott Price, City of DeLand CRA member, 1.17.15
8 Former female employees who fled to other positions or early retirement; anonymous fearing retaliation, 3.1.14
9 M. Hall to CPR committee, 9.3.13
10 Remains anonymous fearing retaliation
11 Documents obtained from city through public record request, 2.12.13
As you read remember the threat of city attorney Darren Elkind to a downtown merchant after the raid: “If you ever harbor a sex offender you’ll get into trouble, too.”

The truth didn’t matter to Elkind. For over nine months the city secretly attempted to prove ARK “harbored a sex offender” and abused animals even though the city was bringing its animals to ARK and city staff and Hall supposedly were working together. Was that how frantic the city was to acquire ARK’s property as staff grasped at one accusation after another to possibly “cash in” on the Civil Asset Forfeiture Law?

City employees kept a book (L) on ARK, placed a bull’s eye squarely on Hall’s back; didn’t tell ARK’s Board they gathered unproven complaints from a handful of fired volunteers; never showed the board the few mostly anonymous complaints “coincidentally” arriving within days of each other.

ARK wasn’t harboring a sex offender on the main thoroughfare through downtown DeLand three blocks from the police station. Why hide a person legally working at ARK who was unjustly accused 20 years earlier? In fact, as ARK’s Board knew he would be, the sex offender (not predator) was removed from Florida’s Sex Offender Registry a month after the Raid.

ARK certainly wasn’t abusing animals either! In fact to accuse ARK of abusing animals was to indict ARK’s reputable volunteers, veterinary hospitals, and organizations working with ARK: Audubon Society, Halifax Humane Society, Lake, Polk, Putnam, and Orange County Animal Services, PetCo, Redinger Clinic, Altamonte, and FloridaWild Veterinary Hospitals.

ARK volunteers were Stetson students, lawyers, teachers, white and blue collar workers, and dozens of community service people the Court ordered to work off their redemption by contributing to society rather than vegetating in cells at the taxpayers’ expense. Indeed, ARK was not only saving animals, it was saving people. In fact, ARK established the first internship with college credit in Florida between an animal rescue group and a university – Stetson – encouraging students to become veterinarians.

Unable to prove ARK was harboring a sex offender, city staffers shifted to animal cruelty. Unable to prove cruelty, so desperate for land, they descended on ARK with horrific force – determined to get that property no matter what, eventually instigating a revenge arrest for Hall.

Why did the city raid ARK asked those who worked in the organization, financially supported it, or adopted from ARK? The glaring truth hit many the day of the raid but as the months passed with continued “secret” emails between city officials attempting to influence the state’s attorney to indict Hall, the theory surfaced in glaring prominence: DeLand City Hall was expanding its talons to grab ARK’s property and possibly that of its neighbor, FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital.

The bizarre conspiracy was revealed over a year after the raid when concerned citizens formed DeLandCPR – Citizens for Public Responsibility and began requesting documents invoking the Florida Sunshine Law. Compare CPR’s six books (L) with the city’s one white book (Above).

From initial research it appeared the RAID had everything to do with self-righteous moralistic zealots determined to “clean house” in downtown DeLand; every action the clandestine cadre took well documented.

However after the raid and the public hearing subsequent actions by City Manager Pleus, Attorney Darren Elkind, and Police Chief Bill Ridgeway, with support from top city staff, made

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12 Remains anonymous fearing retaliation; Elkind refused to do his homework regarding this situation
13 The White Book against ARK and Maggi Hall maintained by the City of DeLand Police Department, 2012-2013
14 Letter from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to Daniel Johnson, 12.21.12
15 DeLand CPR’s six books filled with documents obtained through the Florida Sunshine Law, 2013-2014
DeLandCPR realize the raid had everything to do with gaining ownership of the property through the Civil Asset Forfeiture Law.

ARK, working in concert with DeLand, was one of the most successful animal rescue groups in Florida. Yet ARK’s President, Maggi Hall, falsely and without proof was accused of “Unnecessary and intentional suffering by neglect, starvation and failure to provide water and medical attention resulting in animal deaths.” As will be revealed in the following pages there was absolutely no truth to this outrageous allegation. But city staff had to make their attempted confiscation of the property “appear” as if ARK was acting illegally, thus legitimizing the raid and putting Hall behind bars in order to invoke the Civil Asset Forfeiture Law.

This shocking story is filled with intrigue and deception, lies and theft. The actions of city staff bespeak vindictive, violent, and alarming behavior as they waged war against ARK and Hall. Even in preparation for the hearing after the raid city attorney Darren Elkind, during discovery when attorneys for both sides were required by law to share “evidence,” illegally kept two videotapes from ARK’s attorney in order to surprise his opponents in court with “manufactured visual proof” against ARK.

At the hearing November 19, 2012 to determine the fate of the animals, Elkind brought first to the witness stand Detective Yohana Sanchez who had sent a threat through an ARK volunteer to Hall: “Tell Maggi Hall she’s going to get in trouble for harboring a sex offender.” Determined to prove her warning, the first statement Sanchez uttered on the stand was, “A sex offender is living at ARK.” Judge Green looked at Elkind with disdain asking, “What does that have to do with anything?” and ordered Sanchez’s statement struck from the record.

When Sanchez interviewed the sex offender’s wife a few weeks prior to the raid, Sanchez told Mrs. Johnson, “I have an email from Maggi Hall saying she got Daniel Johnson to register as a transient.” Sanchez also told her Hall called the Johnsons ARK’s slaves. When a copy of the email was requested through the Sunshine Law the city clerk stated, “No record found.” In other words, Sanchez was lying on the witness stand and Elkind knew it.

Elkind’s next witness, Dog Catcher Michelle Realander, narrated her video of police descending on ARK. Amazingly, the video showed the volunteers caring for the animals. Realander stated under oath to ARK’s attorney Tanner Andrews that she didn’t believe the animals should be confiscated and had placed her opinion in writing to city officials. City officials ignored her opinion.

Elkind’s next three witnesses, veterinarians, were biased, paid by the city for animal care. With multiple veterinarians in DeLand, all with more impressive resumes, the city chose Val-U-Vet and DeLand Animal Hospital. Val-U-Vet employee Erin Gray’s “proof of animal cruelty” exploded on the wide screen. Kept secret illegally from ARK’s attorney, it depicted scenes taken more than 48 hours after the last time ARK volunteers were allowed to clean kennels and litter boxes or feed, water, and walk the animals.

In other words, the city’s PROOF of animal cruelty was an “after-the-fact” manufactured video where animals languished in cages without fresh food, water, or medications, and where they wet their beds and defecated in their food bowls because they weren’t allowed out!!

After Hall began her testimony Darren Elkind tricked her off the stand with the promise of a partnership between ARK and the city. There was no way Elkind wanted Judge Green to see the photographs ARK’s attorney obtained after the raid showing the city’s damage and lack of care for the animals. After a private meeting between the attorneys and Hall, Elkind told Judge Green “We’ve reached an agreement whereby they [ARK] will forfeit the cats to the City.... And lastly that the City and ARK will work together on a go forward-we have not sought in this petition or in court today to stop the

16 7th Judicial Circuit 707 Charging Affidavit-Volusia, Officer Juan Millan, 11.30.12
17 Interview with Jennifer Johnson, 10.23.12
18 Case No 2012 23623 CONS in the County Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, in and for Volusia County FL, 11.19.12
19 Taped interview with Jennifer Johnson, 10.23.12
20 Email from city clerk to Hall, 6.6.14
work of ARK, but that we will meet with the ARK representatives to come up with a game plan on a go-forward basis.\footnote{Case No 2012 23623 CONS in the County Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, in and for Volusia County FL, 11.19.12}

Elkind’s remarks before Judge Green were false on three counts: (1) Elkind denied ARK the return of its property, both dogs and cats, thus violating the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution; the illegal confiscation of ARK’s animals and medicines worth more than $11,000; (2) Though Elkind stated, “...ARK...and the City...will get together” the day after the hearing Elkind, Manager Pleus, Assistant Manager Arrington, Chief Ridgeway, and Building Official Matt Adair, Ex-Marine, renewed the city’s war against ARK and Hall; and (3) Elkind said “...I don’t think I need to...[read the statement]. She [Hall] wants it to the press....” Hall never said she wanted a statement to the press. Elkind told Hall she could say anything she wanted to the press to save face but Hall didn’t need to save face; she and ARK had done nothing wrong. \textbf{Because the city knew it couldn’t prove its case it wanted Hall off that stand.}

As this story unfolds the truth surfaces: The city failed at \textbf{PLAN A}: Have the state’s attorney indict Hall on charges of “harboring a sex offender.”\footnote{7th Judicial Circuit 707 Charging Affidavit-Volusia, Detective Yohana Sanchez, 9.5.12} Arresting Hall would assure the immediate deterioration of ARK and the confiscation of its valuable property. When \textbf{PLAN A} failed \textbf{PLAN B} was activated: Have the state’s attorney indict Hall on charges of “animal cruelty.”\footnote{7th Judicial Circuit 707 Charging Affidavit-Volusia, Officer Juan Millan, 11.30.12} Again Hall’s arrest would assure the failure of ARK and its inability to pay its mortgage and strengthen the ability to use the \textbf{Civil Asset Forfeiture Law}.

For ten months after the hearing when Darren Elkind lied in Court by stating to Judge Green that the city and ARK would “work together,” the clandestine scheme continued. Elkind and his misogynistic white male dominated city hall weren’t about to cooperate with ARK. Not only did he lie in court and break his promise, he and city hall bullies denied ARK and Hall their rights under the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

City officials and police “thugs” wanted Hall arrested and ARK destroyed. They worked diligently toward that for months after the city’s false agreement with ARK. Some of their bizarre statements follow:

\textbf{Deputy Chief Randel Henderson to the \textit{West Volusia Beacon}}: We had a rescue group take possession of an estimated 40 cats. We were jokingly calling the officers corralling the cats “cat wranglers.” I would love to see the video.\footnote{“Court date set to decide fate of animals seized from DeLand shelter,” \textit{West Volusia Beacon}, 11.12.12}

\textbf{Attorney Elkind to Manager Pleus and Chief Ridgeway}: She only makes herself look crazier when she sends this stuff out. Remember that she was in the paper prior to the hearing stating that she would get all of the animals back.\footnote{Email from Elkind to Ridgeway copied to Batten and McWhorter, 11.26.12} (This was in response to Hall emailing the city her disgust over its actions.)

\textbf{Attorney Elkind to City Staff}: You have to let me do the following – I want to take a still picture of this dog in the cage standing in its own urine, and put it next to this picture as the dog is today. Below it will be a note showing how the city saved this dog and how well it is now doing. Since I don’t charge to read her crazy emails, I won’t charge for this of course.

\textbf{Chief Ridgeway to Police regarding Elkind’s email}: Don’t disseminate further but I thought it was clever.\footnote{Email from Elkind to Ridgeway copied to Batten and McWhorter, 11.26.12} (When documents and photos were requested by DeLandCPR to substantiate Elkind’s claim of a dog standing in urine, Elkind emailed the city clerk, “Read..."
the email, it states that 'I want to take a still picture....' This was never done, it was never done.)"^{27} (If never done why email staff? He said he had a photo. Where is it?)

**Elkind to State Attorney Amy Walker:** Ms. Hall complains about everything."^{28}
(This was Elkind’s response to Walker requesting a copy of the email where Hall accused the city of harassment.)

After the raid numerous blogs prevailed throughout the month; some horrifying and insulting directed at Hall as well as her daughter, Dr. Erin Holder, owner of FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital. The majority of the vicious remarks were anonymous as cowards and liars hid behind their anonymity. Numerous supportive statements were generally signed. And Elkind, always a liar, refused to have removed all salacious material from the internet as agreed upon behind closed doors.

By January 2013 Hall and ARK’s attorney, Tanner Andrews, were hoping the City of DeLand would file suit against Hall for animal cruelty. In Andrews’ words:

The worse problem is that the trial would be a huge humiliation for the City because ARK would surely call up [a] Realander, to explain what changed [b] Sanchez, to explain about her dishonest statements [c] Henderson, to show that they knew that raid was improper [d] the vets, to show that City provided lesser standard of care than ARK [e] Thomas, to show nepotistic assignment of critters to West Volusia Humane [f] Elkind for two or three kinds of impeachment."^{29}

Unknown to Hall or her attorney, the city continued its espionage only to come up empty handed. There’s no way to calculate the complete cost to the taxpayers. DeLand Animal Hospital was paid $4,140 yet bragged on Facebook that it took care of the animals for free! Darren Elkind scored big coming in at over $7,000."^{30}

Eleven months after the raid, October 1, 2013, the State of Florida announced:

"...No information or intent to prosecute with respect to a felony cruelty to animals against Margaret S. Hall."^{31}

DeLand failed in its attempt to prosecute Hall though the reputations of ARK and Hall were forever tarnished. The following account, taking almost two years to investigate, provides the frightening truth: The City of DeLand conspired against ARK’s constitutional rights and the rights of its founder. Mafia-style tactics reign in DeLand and in truth, are escalating due to the silence of those being tormented.

Support for ARK was strong. Hundreds of dollars were donated with support letters mailed to the city and ARK. Those involved in the conspiracy against ARK and Hall were: **City Staff** - Manager Michael Pleus, Assistant Manager Dale Arrington, Building Inspector Matt Adair, Code Enforcer Mark Ellison, Dog Catchers Michelle Realander and Gary Thomas, attorney Darren Elkind; **Police** – Chief Bill Ridgeway, Deputy Chief Randel Henderson, Deputy Chief Gary Batten, Officers Greg McWhorter, T.J. Petrella, Juan Millan, Yohana Sanchez, Justin Ferrari, Christopher Jusick; **Commissioners** – Charles Paiva, Bob Apgar, Leigh Matusick, Vonzelle Johnson, Phil Martin.

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26 Email from Elkind to city staff and Ridgeway’s reply, 12.13.12
27 Public record request from Hall to city clerk and Elkind’s response, 2.7.14
28 Email from Elkind to Walker, 2.13.13
29 Email from Andrews to Hall, 1.4.13
30 Expense spreadsheet for raid through 11.19.12, City of DeLand, 11.20.12
31 State of Florida v. Margaret S Hall, 10.1.13
Fired volunteers and anonymous critics were: Janice Spencer and Terri Springer (visited three times and fired for refusal to follow protocol; Journey’s End director warned Hall they were trouble), Jo Gilmartin claiming to be a dog trainer was fired for insubordination after almost getting an ARK dog killed. Gilmartin was so desperate to “get back” at Hall she sent numerous pieces of “evidence” to police; Carolyn of healinghand4pets.com (refused to give last name, no connection to ARK); Lisa Stern (no ARK connection); Julie Beard (former ARK Executive Director encouraged to resign due to abusive language to volunteers); and Karen Clark (more on her later). These people caused ARK and Hall to have their names smeared across the internet, YouTube, and the media, their reputations blemished. The city’s unlawful confiscation of private property, animals, and medicines totaled more than $10,000 in losses for ARK with almost $5,000 in unpaid medical bills to veterinarians. Hall’s prophetic comment to Assistant Manager Dale Arrington several weeks prior to the raid came true. “I think there’s a conspiracy against ARK” to which Arrington replied, “Maggi, I think you may be right.”

Small towns have multiple connective layers. As the breadth and scope of the scandalous story of intimidation unfolds, the conspiracy is revealed. City staff and ARK critics, in their own words and by their actions, indict themselves. Readers should question, “Didn’t Elkind, the police, and city staffers have more important things to do than generate a huge volume of emails about Maggi Hall?”

DeLand’s Value’s Statement promises “Pride, Respect, Integrity, Courtesy, Excellence.” None were practiced with ARK. **Since the City has no Code of Ethics why follow its Value’s Statement?**

**THE LINEUP of “DISTINGUISHED” PAID DELAND CITY OFFICIALS**
(L-R): Manager Michael Pleus, Assistant Manager Dale Arrington, Attorney Darren Elkind, Building Inspector Matt Adair, Chief Bill Ridgeway, Deputy Chief Randel Henderson, Dog Catcher Michelle Realander

“If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.”
— Adolf Hitler

**DeLand Crime Rate Higher than National and Florida Average**

“We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid.” — Benjamin Franklin

DeLand’s crime rate is higher than Florida’s average crime rate and much higher than the national average. DeLand crime statistics report an overall upward trend in crime based on data from 11 years with violent crime decreasing and property crime increasing. Based on this trend the 2013 crime rate for DeLand is expected to be higher than in 2010.**

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32 Documents obtained from the city and ARK, 1.14.14
33 Phone conversation overheard by Dr. Ronald Hall, Shreveport LA, 10.26.12
In 2013 the crime rate for DeLand proclaimed frighteningly that its residents are only 8% safer than cities of similar size in the United States.

With a crime rate of 52 per one thousand residents, DeLand has one of the highest crime rates in America compared to all communities of all sizes - from the smallest towns to the very largest cities. One’s chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime here is one in 19. Within Florida, more than 84% of the communities have a lower crime rate than DeLand.

Importantly, when you compare DeLand to other communities of similar population, then DeLand crime rate (violent and property crimes combined) is quite a bit higher than average. Regardless of how DeLand does relative to all communities in America of all sizes, when NeighborhoodScout compared it to communities of similar population size, its crime rate per thousand residents stands out as higher than most.35

DeLand’s violent crime rate in 2013 was higher than the national average by 35.73%. Its property crime rate was higher than the national average by 66.27%. In 2013 DeLand’s violent crime rate was higher than the violent crime rate in Florida by 1.02% with DeLand’s property crime rate higher than Florida’s property crime rate by 37.46%.36 Crime dropped 4.7% statewide in 2013 with little change in DeLand. Projections for 2015 are no less frightening.37

Police reports over the past few years indicate the “majority” are traffic violations, the easiest form of police action. Though there are a few good police within the force, serious problems are escalating. Chief Ridgeway “forgot” about the numerous complaints regarding a pain clinic on Plymouth Avenue repeatedly reported by employees at the Metabolic Research Center. Police refused to take fingerprints on a car whose glass top and side door were smashed. Police refused to investigate a drug house until repeated requests and the threat of contacting the FBI. These are but a few egregious situations.38

Volusia County is notorious for meth lab busts but few occur in DeLand. A professor at Stetson asked his students what DeLand would be like without the college; the stark reply, “A meth lab.”

University Terrace residents twice requested a gun buy back by the police and twice were ignored by Chief Ridgeway. Over a year later Ridgeway gave a lame excuse, a lie in fact.39

Many of DeLand’s police are dangerous. May 8, 2013 Officer Justin Ferrari joined the pursuit on Marlon Brown, an African American, whom a county deputy “thought” he saw driving without a seatbelt. Really? At midnight worried about someone “allegedly” not wearing a seatbelt? Or was he profiling? Ferrari answered the call and roared into action, giving violent chase. Brown jumped from his car and ran into a garden to hide. In a zealous rage Officer James Harris thundered around Ferrari’s car, smashed into Brown, and killed him. Harris eventually was fired but exonerated by the state’s attorney. Then the medical examiner ruled his death “traumatic homicide” but the county chief medical examiner overruled him, took over the investigation and claimed his death accidental. And the first medical examiner was fired.40 We label Marlon Brown’s death “Vehicular Lynching and a terrifying cover-up of police brutality and corruption.”41

“DeLand police, headed by retired DeLand police sergeant, James Jusick, said any other officer could be in Harris’ shoes. Jusick, who raffled off an AR-15 rifle (L) to raise money for Harris’ legal fees, said the DeLand Police Department should

35 www.neighborhoodscout.com/fl/deland, 2013
36 “DeLand urged to work on crime,” West Volusia Beacon, 4.19.12
38 DeLand residents remain anonymous for fear of retaliation
39 Email to Officer Rod Hancock to forward to Ridgeway from University Terrace Residents, 4.12.13
The cops fired. Driver and passenger were shot. The crime: Shoplifting.

State Attorney R.J. Larizza’s decision to take the investigation of Brown’s death to a grand jury is indicative of a state employee in bed with the police. Larizza proclaims he is a friend of the police! What about being the FRIEND OF JUSTICE?

DeLand police heaped additional outrage on the incident. When Krystal Brown, Marlon Brown’s former wife, and their children, asked Chief Ridgeway in a public hearing to request a coroner’s inquest into Brown’s death, making the process and findings public, Ridgeway refused. Brown’s request was supported with over 1,000 signatures on the petition. Are the police repressing evidence or simply racist or both? This battle is on-going into 2015.

Evidently racist according to the News-Journal’s article “Neighbors call police after KKK leaves recruitment fliers in DeLand.” Ridgeway (L) deferred to a lower officer to respond, Sergeant Chris Estes. “The distribution of the fliers is a constitutionally protected freedom of speech and they contain no content of a criminal nature and there is no investigation,” announced Estes. But isn’t hate speech not only a crime but unconstitutional as well?

Michael Lambert honked at DeLand Detective Christopher Jusick as Jusick’s car idled way too long after a traffic light changed to green. Jusick called in additional manpower to give Lambert a citation for “impolite honking.” Lambert demanded a court hearing but Jusick refused to appear even though subpoenaed. Chief Ridgeway did nothing; the officer ignored a subpoena and no one cared! Ignoring a subpoena is illegal yet Ridgeway stood silent.

Both Jusick and Ferrari were intensely involved in the RAID on ARK, and like Sanchez, Realander, and Adair, are typical of those hired by city hall. Adair, in fact, inappropriately signs his city emails “Fideli Certa Merces” which in the Marine Corps means “To the faithful there is certain reward.” Does Adair think the city should be run like the Marine Corps? Or maybe it already is and that’s part of DeLand’s problem?

DeLand police are trigger-finger happy. At a crowded convenience store an officer fired at a car heading toward him rather than jump out of the way. Though no innocent bystanders were hit both the driver and passenger were shot. The crime: Shoplifting at a busy gas station. A dozen gunshots were fired by the police to stop a petty thief while endangering the lives of dozens of innocent bystanders. The cops shot an innocent passenger in the thief’s car and now he’s suing the city.

Florida leads the nation in federal public corruption convictions between 2000 and 2010. Even the New York Times calls Florida a “hothouse for corruption.” Taxpayers to end corruption are calling for a political change at City Hall, for open budgets, fair access to public office, open contracts, and open data. Though no public figure in DeLand has yet to be accused of corruption, evidence indicates by the way the city is run that DeLand could easily fall into this category - if it’s not already happened.

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42 “Family fights uphill battle for criminal charges against cop who killed DeLand man,” Orlando Sentinel, 10.13.13
43 “Police need to show restraint,” News-Journal, 8.30.13
44 “Public probe was needed in DeLand,” News-Journal, 9.30.13
45 “Police, Spring Hill community hosts forum,” West Volusia Beacon, 3.17.14
46 “Neighbors call police after KKK leaves recruitment fliers in DeLand,” News-Journal, 1.1.13
48 “Police try to identify 2 men in DeLand-officer shooting,” News-Journal, 10.22.13
49 “Cleaning up government a priority,” News-Journal, 9.15.13
DeLand could afford a massive new police station (L) costing millions yet the city finds it impossible to drastically reduce crime. It's not a user-friendly building either; locked up so tight it’s impossible to meet someone face to face, assuring officers can slip in and out unobserved.

DeLand’s crime rate is higher than the national average yet city staff raided a life-saving entity costing taxpayers over $20,000, led to the death of several animals, and attempted to ruin a community leader’s reputation. City staffers wasted valuable time and public funds on a Machiavellian act yet City Hall is unable to reduce DeLand’s crime rate. And one cop after another is fired only after stories about unethical, illegal, or outrageous actions on the part of the cop are revealed in the newspaper.

Indeed, priorities are dangerously skewed in DeLand Florida.

City Hall’s Friendship with ARK’s Founder and President

“Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.” – Albert Camus

For decades DeLand exterminated healthy abandoned cats and dogs, it’s inhumane action annually costing taxpayers over $45,000. The city’s contract with the facility that accepted their strays ended in July 2009 when ARK’s Founder and President Maggi Hall was asked by DeLand’s new Manager, Michael Pleus, to explain the details of the “No Kill Policy” to city staff and community leaders. The commissioners then voted unanimously to save lives and thus save tens of thousands of dollars. DeLand created a holding facility, Second Chance, with ARK’s promise: You’ll never have to kill again. Up until the day of the raid no healthy animal was ever destroyed.

ARK advertised Second Chance animals, adopting many from its website www.ARKsaves.com. The city relied on ARK to take pit bulls, sick and aggressive dogs, and find homes for the remainder. Another group rescued the cats. Rarely did any group pull from Second Chance. It was generally ARK that came forward as the city admitted in a news article THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE RAID. The article quoted city employees’ desperation, “We’ve got to do something different than what we’re doing. We’re literally on the verge of implosion. ... Usually ARK takes the dogs.” Yet three days later the city destroyed ARK’s Rescue Center.

City officials knew Hall well. After three decades as a special education teacher, Hall and her husband Ron, native Floridians and Stetson University graduates, moved back to DeLand in 1999 where Hall’s husband chairs Stetson’s Philosophy Department.

In 2001 Hall opened West Volusia Properties Real Estate office to facilitate her downtown revitalization of a ghetto of over 80 houses in various stages of decay ignored by the city for decades. Named “The Garden District,” the area incorporated four square blocks, two blocks from town center where drugs and prostitution flourished unchecked for years. The project was featured in Southern Living March 2004. In February 2006 the acclaimed American Bungalow printed Hall’s article “DeLand Florida: Architectural Revitalization in Action.”

In 2005 Hall received the “Teresa and Bob Apgar Faith, Hope, and Charity Community Service Award.” In 2006 Hall received the “Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Individual Achievement Award” for historic restoration of five commercial buildings in the Garden District. Hall was designer and contractor for the project. She also received the state’s “Florida MainStreet Outstanding Economic

Email from Hall to commissioners and staff, 10.12.12


“Maggi Hall protects the town she loves,” West Volusia Beacon, 11.05

“Architectural Revitalization in Action,” American Bungalow, Fall 2005

Restructuring Program Award” for leadership and financial support as Chair of MainStreet DeLand’s Design Committee.\(^{55}\)

In 2006 Hall won the prestigious state award from the Florida League of Cities having been nominated by DeLand’s Commissioners. The “2006 City Citizen of the Year Award” was given for numerous projects benefiting DeLand. When Assistant Manager Pleus read Hall’s resume and the numerous national and state awards she received while residing in South Carolina, he expressed delight in filling out the nomination.

Manager Mike Abels stated, “We’re very proud of not only her winning, but what she’s done in the city of DeLand.”\(^{56}\)

Mayor Bob Apgar added, “Maggi Hall has done so many things in our community over the last couple of years, it really was hard for me to think there could be anyone else more worthy of recognition.”\(^{57}\)

Hall is a national and state award winning environmentalist and historic preservationist having restored the oldest and longest operating public school in South Carolina. She authored five books, one on DeLand, another on Stetson. She was a member of DeLand’s Strategic Planning Committee, sat on the city’s tree advisory board, the West Volusia Historical Society, the West Volusia Audubon, and past president of the local PEN Women, a national writing organization.

Hall served on the city’s design committee for the Intermodal Transportation System to be built adjacent to ARK and her family’s veterinary hospital, FloridaWild. She served on DeLand’s Code Enforcement Board for six years. Maggi Hall knew ordinances and legal procedures. When ARK was raided Hall knew the city was guilty, not ARK.

In 2007 Hall resigned from all boards to form ARK and assist the city she loved in rescuing DeLand’s abandoned cats and dogs.

November 8, 2012 a warrant was sworn out for Hall’s arrest accusing her of animal cruelty.

**Questions to Consider as Insanity Reigns in DeLand**

“Its insanity in individuals is something rare – but in groups...it is the rule.”  – Friedrich Nietzsche

- If ARK was a dangerous facility why did city staff repeatedly request it take dogs even two days prior to the raid?\(^{58}\)
- Why did the city repeatedly request Hall’s expertise on animal care?\(^{59}\)
- If officials were concerned over ARK’s outside dogs, the city’s dogs, why didn’t they demand immediate relocation during the multiple meetings over a two year period Hall had with city staff?
- Why did the city confiscate over $1,000 worth of ARK’s medicines and refuse to return them?
- Why did the city refuse to return ARK’s animals valued at over $10,000?
- If the city was concerned for the welfare of ARK’s animals why did employees separate medical records from the animals and never attempt to match the records with the animals after their confiscation and dispersal to half a dozen locations?\(^{60}\)

\(^{55}\) www.WestVolusiaProperties.com

\(^{56}\) “League Names Hall Citizen of the Year: Activist honored for DeLand beautification work,” News-Journal, 11.22.06

\(^{57}\) Ibid.

\(^{58}\) Email to Hall from Ridgeway, 11.6.12

\(^{59}\) Email to Hall from Ridgeway, 6.14.12

\(^{60}\) Calls to ARK for records, Seminole Co. Animal Control, Flagler Co. Humane Society, Pets by Judy, Sanford, 11.20.12
• Why did the city believe anonymous complaints against ARK?
• Why did the city keep the complaints against ARK secret?
• Why didn’t the city bring the witnesses to the hearing who wrote complaints against ARK?

**ARK’S Rescue Center**

“In Rescue I lost my mind…but I found my Soul.” -- ARK’s Motto

ARK’s Rescue Center, manned by an all-volunteer staff, was located downtown on DeLand’s main thoroughfare at 441 S. Woodland Boulevard. It was three blocks from the police station and city hall and directly across the street from Stetson’s five million dollar sports complex.

Adjacent on the Center’s north side was the site for DeLand’s bus station, a project which had been on hold for 13 years but due for groundbreaking spring 2013. The Center was in the southwest quadrant of Hall’s revitalization project, the Garden District.

The city knew ARK’s facility (L) was temporary as the city and ARK were searching for a mutual site for a shelter with acreage. ARK’s projected move date from the Center was June 2013 so ARK’s Board was scrambling to find a suitable location. After the animals were relocated ARK was turning the building into its intended use, a Wildlife Education and Rescue Center located adjacent to FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital and integrate the hospital’s pro bono wildlife rescue and rehabilitation program with ARK’s goal.

ARK purchased the 1,800 square foot three level, two building structures from Hall who had used it for her real estate office. The land was approximately half an acre situated in downtown DeLand for maximum visibility. The ten rooms at ARK’s Center were under heat and air including the basement. There were two bathrooms and a kitchen. When the economy collapsed cats and dogs were abandoned in record numbers so ARK had no alternative than to expand its program. The city experienced the same problem and reached out to ARK for assistance.

Healthy adult cats ready for adoption were placed in ARK’s Cat Suite, a bright room with nine large windows. The room measured 15x20 feet and was filled with climbing apparatus, hideaways, soft beds, quilts, and toys. Litter boxes were cleaned twice daily, food and water replenished throughout the day, the limit 35. Kittens were housed in large condos in the spacious reception room and on the porch during the day, weather permitting. Feral cats in the process of being tamed were housed in large condos in the reception room to interact with people. ARK’s success rate for feral adoptions was high.

A small room on the ground floor away from other animals served as isolation for sick and newly acquired felines. It could be closed off by two doors and was a bright room with two walls of windows. Cats able to be treated on site were medicated throughout the day. Severely ill felines were kept at two veterinary hospitals: FloridaWild and Altamonte.

Several weeks prior to the raid more than two dozen kittens and their mothers were abandoned at ARK in various stages of illness. Protocol required new felines isolated for two weeks, the majority sick
or dying when abandoned at the Center. On the day of the raid the isolation room held approximately 30 cats and kittens suffering from a contagious non-lethal upper respiratory disorder, common among rescue groups including the City of DeLand’s Second Chance facility.61 An FIV/AIDS mother cat and five kittens were isolated in a large condo in the upstairs bathroom. These diseases were lethal and contagious. Several weeks prior to the raid ARK paid $100 for the mother to live out her life at a facility north of Ocala. The babies remained at the Center, due for a second blood test in two weeks to determine if they had FIV/AIDS or if the test had been a false positive. A sign on the condo stipulated only certain volunteers could handle the kittens.

Dogs were rotated every few days from outdoor runs to kennels located on the covered patio or in the building. Volunteers walked dogs a minimum of 5 times a day. Dogs daily interacted with people. In the evening dogs were allowed to roam the building, watch television with the tenants, or sit in volunteers’ laps.

Dogs received flea treatment monthly, bathed weekly, fed twice daily with bowls removed after feeding. Water bowls were filled throughout the day. Dogs were temperament tested by volunteers including a licensed dog behaviorist,62 wore a collar with ARK tag and were microchipped.

There were 27 dogs, three of which were biters the city gave ARK. The last biter ARK received from the city was delivered two days prior to the raid. All but those three were vetted and ready for adoption.63

ARK’S Successes

“We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.”

-- Immanuel Kant

Adoptions for 2012 by the day of the raid were over 435. The majority were from DeLand, either abandoned or surrendered, relieving the city’s facility and saving taxpayers’ thousands of dollars. Thirty percent ARK rescued from kill shelters the week they were to be exterminated. ARK averaged rescuing and rehoming over 300 animals annually. 2012 was a banner year for saving lives!64

ARK’s animals were well cared for. Paid medical bills from January through October 2012 totaled over $52,000. ARK never refused an animal, even those aged, ill, or near death. Indeed ARK’s Hospice Program is a fine example of the value it places on animal welfare. The Lake County kill shelter contacted Hall on a regular basis to request severely injured animals be rescued. Hall never refused though the medical cost would be extreme. (Above-rescued, healed, adopted.)65

61 Email from Hall to Ridgeway, 8.7.12
62 Ibid., 8.19.12
63 Email from Ridgeway to Hall, 8.20.12
64 ARK Annual Report, 12.31.12
65 Email to Ann Turner from Denise Williams, Lake Co. Animal Services, 4.2.11
Monthly adoption events were held with 75+ animals ready for adoption the week of the raid. ARK housed dozens more in foster homes though the bulk of adoptions were at the Center.

**The Conspiracy Unfolds**

**Conspiracy:** “An evil, unlawful, treacherous, or surreptitious plan formulated in Secret...a plot; an agreement...to commit a crime, or other wrongful act....”

---Webster’s Dictionary

**Scene 1 – 2012: The Treacherous Timeline**

**May 20** - ARK offered shelter to a homeless couple, Daniel and Jennifer Johnson. Jennifer was on disability and Daniel recently lost his job. They had volunteered for ARK prior to their misfortune. Unknown at the time to ARK Board Members Daniel was a registered sex offender (not a sexual predator).

**June 12** - Yohana Sanchez, DeLand Detective, was alerted to Johnson’s new location when he registered the Center as his address. Sanchez notified ARK’s Center Coordinator Paula Logan that he was at the Center illegally due to its location near a day care, City Ordinance 2005-58.66

ARK President, Maggi Hall, contacted Barbara Sprague with the Florida Action Committee, a group protecting the rights of felons, to ascertain Johnson’s situation. Sprague assured Hall that Johnson should never have registered in the state and that his conviction, 20 years earlier in another state, had been a vendetta instigated by Johnson’s nephew. Eventually the nephew confessed to Johnson’s innocence but once on the registry it is almost impossible to be removed. Johnson, in his early twenties, frightened of incarceration, was encouraged by his attorney to plead guilty for a lesser sentence. Foolishly, Johnson followed the advice, pled guilty for a crime he did not commit, and served three months in prison. ARK’s Board was comfortable with Johnson caring for animals.67

**June 14** – Police Chief Bill Ridgeway emailed Hall requesting she be available for a workshop “to speak before the city commission in regard to animal control services.... I would like you to be at the meeting and want to make sure you’re available.”68

**June 27** – Johnson re-registered as a transient but told the sheriff he would continue working at ARK.69 After his night duties were over Johnson wandered away to sleep elsewhere. With plenty of wooded areas in downtown DeLand the city blossomed with homeless camps. It still does. Johnson was within his legal right to work at ARK no matter how close to a day care as confirmed by Johnson’s attorney, Tanner Andrews. Johnson, no longer sleeping on site, meant he no longer lived there.

**July 5** - Hall met with City Manager Michael Pleus, Chief of Police Bill Ridgeway, and Assistant City Manager Dale Arrington to discuss problems with the city’s Second Chance facility and deaths due to improper care. Hall received numerous complaints from rescue groups regarding Second Chance because people were afraid to contact the police directly. Ridgeway asked Hall not to make public the complaints against the city but privately email him. Hall also suggested they find a mutual facility.70

**July 11** – An anonymous complaint, the first in ARK’s history, was sent to the city.71 ARK’s new Executive Director Julie Beard and Hall agreed it came from a dismissed volunteer who falsified information to dog catcher Gary Thomas. Thomas concurred with the women and ignored the complaint.

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67 Email and conversation from Sprague to Hall, 6.13.12  
68 Email to hall from Ridgeway, 6.14.12  
69 Email to Detective Sanchez from Volusia Co. Sheriff’s Office, 6.27.12  
70 Presentation by Hall to Pleus, Arrington, Ridgeway, 7.5.12  
71 Anonymous complaint to city, 7.11.12
**July 12** – But dog catcher Michelle Realander, decided to investigate anyway. It was the first time she’d been to the Center. Volunteers surmised the “complaint” and “first ever inspection” were connected not to the bogus complaint lodged with Thomas but in connection to Daniel Johnson’s presence at ARK. Realander sent ARK her written report filled with unfounded accusations including the lack of proper ventilation in the basement which was, in fact, centrally air conditioned and heated. She complained dogs were in crates inappropriate for their size. Had Realander wanted to learn the truth she would have asked why. The answer would have justified the situation: The dogs were awaiting transport to the hospital. She noted dogs housed outside were violating an ordinance though the city had known for a year about the situation. Realander stated their barking would disturb ARK’s neighbors: FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital, Stetson University’s Baseball Field, city-owned vacant land to be used for a bus station, and an auto repair shop across a busy highway. Realander was “manufacturing” complaints. Volunteers were confused and asked, “What is she up to?”

The *News-Journal* wrote an article about ARK’s Rescue Center with a photograph of Daniel Johnson and Hudson, a bull mastiff rescue (L).72

**July 14** – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Teresa Riggs lodged a complaint with police claiming to have adopted an ARK cat. Police didn’t request proof of adoption or personal identification.) When volunteers found out months later they investigated. No Riggs adopted from ARK and no Riggs was ever located.74

An unprecedented surveillance of ARK’s Center began with intensive patrolling late at night and during the day; patrol cars parking across the street at the ballpark (L) or the Aamco station.

**July 18** – A volunteer for DeLand’s Second Chance contacted Hall asking that she let the city know medications should be given ill animals at its facility. Hall emailed Chief Ridgeway regarding same.75

**July 19** – Ridgeway emailed Hall that he’d spoken with Deputy Chief Randel Henderson and that meds would be administered from this point forward to sick animals though there was a claim from another officer that meds were being administered.76

**July 24** – Michelle Realander re-appeared to re-inspect, led through the building by Executive Director Julie Beard. In her statement Realander wrote: “Maggie Hall and Julie Beard both spoke to Officer Realander advising they were sorry and unaware of how bad the conditions had gotten.”77

The conditions weren’t bad and Realander never spoke with Hall. Volunteers learned Realander’s early morning visits were intentional as she would arrive prior to litter boxes scooped or outdoor kennels cleaned. No rescue facility opened before cleaning chores were complete. Realander knew what she was doing.78

**July 25** – Irate over the inspections and exaggerations by Realander, Hall emailed Manager Michael Pleus stating: “ARK has its ups and downs because we are the trash receptacle for DeLand’s abandoned animals. We are overrun. We are broke. We are exhausted.... Our animals are fed well and medicated constantly.... Our medical bills...astronomical....”79

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72 Letter to ARK from Realander, 7.12.12
74 DeLand Police Department Narrative from Riggs taken by Jessica Mayo, 7.14.12
75 Email to Hall from Potter then forwarded from Hall to Ridgeway, 7.17.12
76 Email to Hall from Ridgeway, 7.19.12
77 Email to police from Realander, 7.24.12
78 Documents obtained through the Florida Sunshine Law, 2.14
79 Email from Hall to Pleus, 7.25.12

An Emergency Posting from Second Chance that afternoon stated the following: “A thank you goes out to Ms. Maggi Hall and ARK for receiving a dog last night on short notice. Second Chance was at capacity and a possibly aggressive, abandoned dog was reported. Second Chance had no available cage space and Ms. Hall willingly accepted the animal.”

July 27 – Another complaint against Second Chance came to Hall via email from Second Chance volunteer, Jan Potter. Hall forwarded it to Assistant Manager Dale Arrington. The police weren’t allowing potential adopters to look at animals at Second Chance, which volunteers pointed out was ridiculous. But more seriously “…we lost 3 more kittens today…that makes 11 dead in 3 months.”

It is imperative to note that DeLand’s Second Chance animals were dying while ARK had no deaths at its facility.

August 8 – Hall emailed Chief Ridgeway to inform him of an upper respiratory outbreak at Second Chance and to say that ARK was experiencing the same problem including an intestinal disease that claimed three of their cats at the veterinary hospital in Altamonte. “That is heartbreaking. All of our over 70+ cats are being medicated. It is costing us a fortune.” Ridgeway didn’t respond to Hall.

August 12 – Problems at Second Chance continued to escalate with volunteers contacting Hall with complaints, too afraid to contact the police directly for fear of retaliation. With disgust one volunteer emailed that police picked up “a nursing mother...with only one baby and the rest of the litter was left behind...an ethical dilemma for us.”

An article featuring ARK in the News-Journal stated: “Veterinarian Erin Holder, Hall’s daughter and owner of FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital that abuts ARK shelter’s property line, convinced her mother to turn one of her renovated real estate projects into an animal shelter in response to the exploding number of abandoned animals found in the veterinary hospital’s courtyard each morning. ‘There’d be dogs tied to the fence, kittens in boxes without food, water, or even air holes. They were all sick....’ With previous experience in creating foundations in other fields, Hall dove right in. The result is a home-like facility staffed by volunteers and supplemented by a network of foster homes where animals are socialized and given rehabilitative care they wouldn’t receive in a group setting. The center budgeted at $135,000 a year, but when things get tough, Hall’s personal checkbook is often tapped.”

August 14 – Second Chance requested ARK take two additional pit bulls, Shiloh and Peanut. After Hall sent ARK’s dog behaviorist to Second Chance to evaluate them the behaviorist suggested Shiloh remain at Second Chance and have a volunteer work with him. Second Chance had only 4 dogs; ARK had over a dozen including Peanut which ARK took from Second Chance.

August 17 – Hall contacted Chief Ridgeway to let him know Shiloh was receiving training and ARK would eventually take him. Ridgeway responded, “Thanks Maggi.”

August 20 – ARK received another aggressive dog from Second Chance. Chief Ridgeway wrote Hall, “Thanks Maggi. I appreciate you taking ‘Bart.’ Just to clarify, when Sgt. McWhorter informed me that he was showing significant signs of aggression, to the point that our Animal Control and Care Officers were in fear to even attempt to feed him, I instructed McWhorter to contact you personally. I am the one that said if we were unable to care for the animal it would have to be euthanized that day. I’m very glad that your group was able to take him and is making progress with him, this is how the
program is supposed to work, I view it as a success. ...When you’re back in town and have some time, please call, I’d like to meet in person still to discuss the program.”

**August 28** – Chief Ridgeway emailed Hall and Assistant Manager Dale Arrington regarding the meeting with commissioners where he and Arrington wanted Hall to speak. “I believe it is set for October 23. Dale, can you confirm the date and time?”

**September 5** – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Detective Sanchez was sending out tentacles to prove Daniel Johnson was residing at the Center in violation of the ordinance against sex offenders. She obtained a statement from Steven Swallows who “claimed” to have adopted a puppy from ARK. He wrote, “...I asked if I could bring the dog after work and Daniel said he lived at the ARK location so I could bring the dog anytime... [for shots and neutering.]”

The above was a false statement on two counts: Swallows never adopted from ARK and veterinarians sterilize and give rabies shots. Animals were never left at ARK for these services. Sanchez wasn’t interested in the truth; she wanted to prove any way she could that Johnson was residing at the Center.

(UNKNOWN TO ARK): Karen Clark was behind Swallow’s “claim.” In Sanchez’s report she stated: “Clark advised that she did not have firsthand information...but she could speak with a Steve Swallows who had firsthand knowledge. Clark advised that Daniel Johnson told Steve Swallows that he was living at ARK in the second floor of the business. Clark stated that a special occupancy license is needed for people to live in the same place animals are kept. Clark stated that there was another man whom she believed to be a sex offender also, Matt Crawford, living in the basement of the business.

Clark stated that the basement was in no living conditions for animals nevertheless a human [Clark never set foot in the Center]. Clark stated that Maggie Hall had sent out an email to her board advising that ‘Matt’ was moving into the basement. Clark also advised that Maggie Hall had also sent out an email stating that she got around the Deland city ordinance by having Daniel Johnson register as a ‘transient.’” No email was ever forthcoming as proof from Sanchez or Clark. And Matt Crawford was not a registered sex offender. More of Clark’s lies.

**September 18** – Hall emailed Ridgeway requesting the city stop picking up feral cats because they were becoming ill and dying at Second Chance. Ridgeway responded back that he hoped these types of issues would be clarified at the commission workshop where Hall was to speak.

**September 20** – ARK held a car wash and adoption event at the Center. The *News-Journal* covered the successful event reporting: “...One of their first customers donated $100 for the car wash, and wrote a check for $1,000 to the shelter.” (The donor, Judy Thompson, a prominent resident, was impressed with the facility and animal care - two weeks prior to the raid - where animals “supposedly” were being abused.)

One volunteer told the paper, “Every animal you see would be dead if we didn’t exist... Some...have special needs. Hudson, a huge mastiff, came to ARK about six weeks ago...heartworm positive – the cost to treat him was $200.”

**October 8** – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Detective Sanchez filled out an affidavit stating, “The undersigned [Sanchez] certifies and swears that there is probably cause to believe the above named defendant [Margaret Hall] on the 5th day of September 2012...did violate Deland City Ordinance 2005-58 which prohibits Property Owners from renting real property to certain sexual offenders....” [Hall didn’t own the building; facts consistently incorrect with the city as it attempted to build a case.]

Sanchez’ report was dated October 8, 2012 though she had entries dated October 31. The charging affidavit was not submitted to the 7th Judicial Circuit until November 21, 2012, two days after

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87 Email from Ridgeway to Hall, 8.20.12
88 Email from Ridgeway to Hall and Arrington, 8.28.12
89 Voluntary Witness Statement from Swallows to Sanchez, 9.5.12
90 7th Judicial Circuit 707 Charging Affidavit – Volusia, Sanchez, 10.25.12
91 Emails between Hall and Ridgeway, 9.18.12
the hearing regarding the dispersal of ARK’s property and the city’s promise to work with ARK to save animals.\(^93\)

**October 10** – The *News-Journal* announced ARK’s adoption event at the Center. “The group will be waiving its usual adoption fees for kittens, adult cats and dogs over 40 pounds.”\(^94\)

That same day Gary Thomas, dog catcher, sent a news release to city officials and shelters stating, “A purge of four (4) dogs will be necessary if foster or permanent homes aren’t found within the next 24 hours. THANK YOU to ARK for taking two (2) of the dogs but we still need to remove two (2) more.”\(^95\)

The immediate response to Thomas’ email from Chief Ridgeway to Hall was, “Thanks for taking two, I really appreciate it. I hope we can find homes ASAP for the remaining ones. Also, don’t forget the meeting on the 22\(^{nd}\), I look forward to seeing you there.”\(^96\)

(Both Gary Thomas and Ridgeway failed to write that Gloria Thomas, Director of the decadent West Volusia Humane Society, told Ridgeway to “get those dogs out of here, now!”\(^97\) Her facility was often used to drop off dogs.)

**October 12** – Outraged over Thomas’ use of the word “purge” meaning “to kill” Hall emailed Chief Ridgeway with copies to city staff and commissioners. She reminded them she personally made a promise there would be no further killing of healthy animals if they started Second Chance – and there had been none. Hall wrote: “Our building has over 25 dogs; three fourths of those dogs were abandoned in the City. These are your dogs. They are ours now. We make room, we find fosters. We don’t even think about KILLING.... As I have mentioned numerous times animal control really needs to be removed from the police department. The police need to be doing criminal and safety work.”\(^98\)

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Gary Thomas documented a complaint against ARK by “Ann” claiming “possible dog abuse” at ARK. Thomas stated in the complaint, “I made several attempts to contact Ann at the number provided, however she called back and requested I stop calling her that I must have been given the wrong number.”\(^99\) Here is another indication that someone was making a complaint with a false name. No Ann came to ARK; her name wasn’t on the mandatory sign-in sheet.

**October 15** - Hall fired Matt Crawford, a live-in volunteer who refused to follow animal care protocol and who also was caught stealing.\(^100\)

**October 16** – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Chief Ridgeway emailed Manager Pleus: “I spoke with Maggi today and was able to clarify my email with her. We had a very positive conversation and she asked that I invite Miguel from Halifax Humane Society to Monday’s workshop. I already contacted him and he will be there.”

Ridgeway went on to explain that he and Hall had come to an understanding that Thomas was not to call Hall requesting dogs be picked up; that Hall wanted either the Chief or Deputy Chief Randel Henderson to call. “I told her that we apparently didn’t clearly communicate together and I feel we are both satisfied at this time with that situation.”

Ridgeway continued, “...two calls for service in regard to people wanting to complain about animal cruelty and/or the inhumane care of animals occurring at ARK.... I'll forward them to you as well just as FYI. Since it is potentially an open complaint, please don’t disseminate.... We will investigate appropriately after we have all of the facts.”\(^101\)

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93 7th Judicial Circuit 707, charging Affidavit – Volusia, filed by Sanchez 10.8.12
94 “DeLand pet adoption this Saturday waives fees,” *News-Journal*, 10.10.12
95 Email to city officials and rescues from Thomas, 10.10.12
96 Email from Ridgeway to Hall, 10.10.12; Email from Thomas to rescue groups, 10.10.12
97 As told to Hall by Ridgeway though he refused to place Thomas’ remarks in writing, 10.10.12
98 Email from Hall to city staff and commissioners, 10.12.12
99 DeLand Police Department Narrative, Dog Catcher Thomas, 10.12.12
100 Letter to Crawford from Hall stating reasons for dismissal, 10.16.12
101 Email from Ridgeway to Pleus, 10.16.12
Why weren’t complaints, simultaneously and anonymously lodged against ARK, delivered to ARK? Why the obvious cover up by the city?

October 18 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Lisa Cordova visited the police station to complain about ARK and Hall. She was fostering to adopt two dogs and refused to pay the adoption fee or return them for vetting. Exaggerating the situation Cordova claimed she was in fear of her life.102

Intrigued by the complaint Deputy Chief Henderson and Gary Thomas began emails back and forth with Henderson writing, "I'm interested to learn more...." and Thomas responding back, "I'll fill you in tomorrow. Morning.")103

ARK had a legal right to reclaim the dogs, warning Cordova and other rescue groups that she couldn’t be trusted. ARK never regained possession of the dogs; Cordova stole them. ARK’s only recourse was an expensive civil suit. More importantly if Henderson were so "intrigued" why didn’t he pick up the phone and call Hall? He called her all the time about taking aggressive dogs.

October 19 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Gary Thomas filed a complaint submitted by Jean Deleon who claimed there were sick animals at ARK. Thomas turned the calls over to Sergeant McWhorter. There was no identifying information taken by McWhorter.)104

October 20 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Lisa Cordova forwarded an email from Hall to Gary Thomas who sent it to Chief Ridgeway and Manager Pleus. Ridgeway wrote Pleus: "I didn’t see you, Dale, or the Commissioners on this e-mail list. Thought you should have this information." Pleus responded, “Let’s brief Bob [the mayor] around 9:30am this morning. My office.”)105

October 23 – Deryk Ford, a person Hall didn’t know, emailed her and copied to Bob Baird, cat rescuer who ARK repeatedly assisted. (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Baird forwarded it to Deputy Chief Randel Henderson.) Ford’s political rant was addressing a “Support Obama” sign volunteers legally placed in the front yard of the Center. He wrote, "...by your display of support for Obama and his reckless polices that have added six trillion dollars to our debt and reduced the quality of life for so many...forcing them to abandon pets, you are alienating at least 50% of potential clients...."106

Certainly not a coincidence, Michelle Realander and Mark Ellison, Code Enforcers, reappeared for another inspection. Amazingly, city staff ignored serious code violations and numerous abandoned buildings and safety hazards but was determined to “get” something on ARK – anything it could.

On leaving Realander turned to Johnson and said “Get rid of that dog kennel (L) and “the Obama sign,”107 her demand a violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

That afternoon Center tenant Jennifer Johnson, Daniel’s wife, was called on her cell by Detective Sanchez, demanding her presence at the police station. No one had Johnson’s number except ARK and Matt Crawford, the volunteer fired earlier that week.

Sanchez told Johnson several lies to intimidate her: (1) Maggi Hall calls you her slaves; (2) I have an email from Hall saying she got your husband to file as a transient so he could stay there; (3) I have evidence he’s living at the Center. Months later after requesting public record documents the city was unable to hand over any proof to substantiate what Sanchez had claimed. In fact the recording that was obtained shows unbelievable coercion and lack of

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102 ARS Narrative Report from Cordova to police, 10.18.12
103 Email from Thomas to Henderson and Henderson's response to Thomas, 10.18.12
104 Detailed History Police Event, Joshua Strait then redone by Thomas, 10.19.12
105 Email from Cordova to Thomas then forwarded to Ridgeway and Pleus and their responses, 10.22.12
106 Email from Ford to Hall and Baird who then forwarded to Henderson, 10.23.12
107 Johnson in conversation with Hall, 10.23.12
respect for Mrs. Johnson. Sanchez closed her interview with Johnson by saying, “Tell Maggi she’s going to get in trouble for harboring a sex offender.”\footnote{Sanchez interview with Johnson, 10.23.12}

Since no board member contacted Sanchez and the only other person having Johnson’s number was Crawford, it appeared Crawford contacted Sanchez in retaliation. A police officer at the taped interrogation asked Johnson if Crawford was still living there. The only way he would have known the volunteer’s name or that he had lived at the Center was if Crawford had told him. Johnson never mentioned Crawford’s name.\footnote{Ibid.}

\textbf{(UNKNOWN TO ARK):} “Dukesworld” emailed the police claiming to be an ARK volunteer expressing “concerns” for the welfare of the animals. Sergeant McWhorter continued a conversation with Dukesworld for several days thereafter, even thanking the writer for her/his concern.\footnote{Email from Dukesworld to McWhorter and Henderson, 10.23.12} When documents were released for the hearing ARK volunteers thought Dukesworld emails were from Matt Thomas they were so illiterate.

That evening after being “warned” by Detective Sanchez that she was going to “get into trouble for harboring a sex offender,” Maggi Hall, at the request of Chief Ridgeway and Assistant Manager Arrington, presented to the commission the need for revamping its rescue program. \textit{Does it make sense that two weeks prior to the RAID when city staff secretly were amassing “documents” against ARK and Hall that Ridgeway and Arrington requested Hall speak before the commission on animal welfare?}

At Hall’s request Ridgeway invited Miguel Abi-hassan, Halifax Humane Society Director, to present a slide shown on reducing the free roaming cat population. Then Hall submitted ARK’s 2012 budget to date, $135K,\footnote{2012 ARK budget} ending with the offer supported by Chief Ridgeway that ARK run Second Chance at its present location until a new facility was located, annually saving tens of thousands of dollars.

Positive discussion followed with the mayor, commissioners, Ridgeway, and Hall. City Manager Pleus interjected that ARK took a severely abused dog from Second Chance, trained him, and adopted him to a Tampa family (L). \textit{“Don’t forget Shiloh!“} Pleus exclaimed with pride.\footnote{Pleus’ comment to commissioners and public, City Commission Minutes, 10.23.12}

Hall mentioned, as she had numerous times, that ARK had live-in tenants and dozens of volunteers, including community service people, to care for the 100 animals on site. She brought the tenants with her to the meeting. ARK, two blocks from the police station and city hall was hiding nothing. The Johnsons came as well as Jim Brown and his wife.

Then Karen Clark stood to lodge complaints against ARK though never having stepped foot on the property and knowing nothing about its operation. But Clark lived down the street from the West Volusia Humane Society, and was friends with its director, Gloria Thomas, wife of DeLand’s dog catcher. Clark and Thomas knew a group of concerned citizens documented, signed their names, and made public proven atrocities at the West Volusia Humane Society (Below) through a blog.\footnote{http://humanetoanimals.blogspot.com}
After Clark’s mean spirited tirade against ARK the commissioners voted unanimously to undertake a study on increasing protection of abandoned cats as well as consider an outside rescue group running Second Chance. ARK volunteers would not learn for a year how involved Clark was in attempting to destroy ARK.

The News-Journal reported on the workshop. “Most of the increased load comes as a result of the weak economy, officials said. Euthanasia of healthy animals has been avoided thanks to the extreme efforts of local animal rescue groups—often at the 11th hour, Ridgeway said.... Maggi Hall, who heads ARK, one of the larger rescue groups in DeLand, spoke to commissioners outlining a proposal to have ARK operate the Second Chance shelter for a year, while the city decides on a more permanent course of action....”

October 24 – Hall emailed the commissioners and staff reminding them that if ARK ran Second Chance there would be no monetary gain for ARK. She mentioned ARK had three people living there; Jennifer Johnson, Matt Crawford, (she meant Jim Brown and his wife), making three, and Daniel the night watchman. (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Hall’s mistake in her email caused quite an excited stir among staff. It was forwarded to Sergeant McWhorter who immediately sent it to Detective Sanchez.) City officials thought they found the “smoking gun” by way of Hall’s email. They had their man and proof Johnson was living there or so they thought.

Back marched Michelle Realander and Mark Ellison for another inspection. They questioned Daniel Johnson as to who lived on site. Realander and Ellison weren’t there to inspect the animals; they were there to prove Johnson lived at the Center.

After their visit Johnson called Hall who then emailed Manager Pleus and Assistant Manager Arrington, complaining of the continued harassment. “I have asked...Michelle, who is rude and heavy handed [Several of Hall’s real estate clients had trouble with Realander and her rudeness,]...and comes in and threatens our volunteers who know nothing, to put in writing what we are ‘doing wrong.’ She has not. That was weeks ago. Now she is on the property videotaping signs and banners and animals and saying no animals are allowed outside on porches. Why not? They get walked 5-8 times a day, run in the vacant field, and get sunshine.... You know me well enough to know I don’t break the law and always try to do what is right. Scaring volunteers isn’t the city’s way of doing business.” Animals not allowed on the porch was a new trumped up complaint! At that point ARK’s Board should have hired an attorney.

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: The email from Hall to Pleus and Arrington was of great concern to the city.

Arrington to Adair: FYI. I do not know if you received this or not.
Adair to Arrington: I did not receive this until now, I am going to forward this over to the PD. The PD had asked Michelle to make a site visit today. Mark accompanied her.
Adair to Henderson, Batten, McWhorter, Realander, Ellison: Please see below the e-mail from Dale received from Maggie Hall.
Henderson to Arrington, Batten, Adair: The procedural action was caused by numerous complaints that have been received surrounding claims of abuse/cruelty and the unsanitary conditions...one complaint was made during a recorded interview obtained yesterday by a detective, and several were received via web A&A. Any claims of abuse or cruelty to animals require a follow-up to either confirm or unfound the allegations....
Arrington to Henderson, Batten, Adair: My big concern is that we give a good response to Maggie. I think that we (Matt, Michelle, you and I) need to sit down tomorrow to figure out the response on this. Maggie indicates that Michelle was ‘on the property videotaping signs and banners and animals’ not the alleged abuse, cruelty and unsanitary conditions.

114 “DeLand workshop targets overload of stray animals,” News-Journal, 10.23.12
115 Email from Hall to commissioners who sent to McWhorter who sent to Sanchez, 10.24.12
116 Email from Realander to McWhorter, Adair, Ellison, 10.24.12
117 Email from Hall to Pleus and Arrington, 10.24.12
of the ARK building. I guess this is confusing since Michelle has multiple roles.... Could we discuss this tomorrow morning? I am available between 8:15 and 11:00.)

**October 26** - DeLand’s Dog Catcher Gary Thomas, an ARK award recipient, called the Center during an adopt event and asked to speak to Daniel Johnson. When Johnson answered the phone Thomas “forgot” why he called and hung up. Within minutes two patrol cars roared into ARK’s parking lot, four officers stormed the building, handcuffed Johnson in front of over 20 ARK patrons and marched him to the squad car.

The accusation: Johnson failed to register as a sex offender. The truth: Johnson did register as a legal transient sex offender because he no longer lived at the Center and had proof from the sheriff’s office!

The police arrested Daniel Johnson for failure to register though he had and Detective Sanchez knew it because she’d received in June a letter from the sheriff’s department. The police acted illegally but they didn’t care. Johnson had a lawsuit against the city but once arrested and knowing the police acted illegally, that silences the innocent. **It’s called intimidation.** The city brought shame on itself with the intent to embarrass Johnson and ARK, hoping the falsely accused sex offender would get out of their town.

DeLand’s Assistant Manager, Dale Arrington, called Hall, who was in Louisiana, to notify her of the arrest. Arrington offered to send city employees to care for the animals. Hall thanked Arrington but said ARK had plenty of volunteers. Arrington revealed two complaints against ARK came in a few weeks earlier; the first Hall learned of complaints other than the bogus one in July.

When Arrington mentioned the names of the “detractors” Hall said she’d never heard of them, then remarked, “Dale, I think there’s a conspiracy against ARK” to which Arrington replied, “Maggi, I think you may be right.”

**October 27** – Realander arrived for yet another inspection, giving nothing to ARK in writing or even a verbal warning regarding the welfare of the animals.

Linda Claussen, ARK Board Member, and Barbara Sprague, Florida Action Committee Representative, paid Johnson’s bail of $200 though the judge had set it at $2,000. The bonds woman remarked to the women, “He never should have been arrested. What’s up with that?”

Jennifer Johnson emailed Hall to advise that while Johnson was in jail police were patrolling the Center day and night, driving through the vacant field on the north side of the building. She also noted Matt Crawford’s brother was loitering outside the Center though he lived miles away.

**October 29** – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Michelle Realander emailed Officer McWhorter, “I don’t think we need to confiscate all of the animals at this time; however a stern warning / Notice with a re-inspection would be sufficient....”

McWhorter emailed the anonymous “Dukesworld,” assuring the person “investigating ARK” continued. “Dukesworld” responded “things were improving there.”

Realander never warned ARK verbally or in writing that its animals were not being properly cared for. Had she done so she would have had to prove her claim or falsify her report.

**October 30** – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): The city was trying to build a case proving Daniel Johnson resided at the Center. Emails flew between Realander, Deputy Chief Randel Henderson, Sergeant McWhorter, and Code Enforcer Mark Ellison:

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118 Emails between Arrington, Adair, McWhorter, Batten, Ellison 10.24.12
119 Email from V.C. Sheriff’s Department to Sanchez, 6.27.12
120 Conversation on speaker phone overheard by Dr. Ronald Hall, Shreveport, LA, 10.26.12
121 Interview with Claussen and Sprague, 10.27.12
122 Email from Johnson to Hall, 10.27.12
123 Email from Realander to McWhorter, 10.29.12
124 Emails between McWhorter and Dukesworld, 10.29.12
“Did you notice if the upper cages had a floor of some sort to catch fecal matter or urine so it didn’t drop into the lower cage? Same for cats?” to which Realander replied, “Yes, Sir, all of the dog crates had a floor. This however does not prevent the urine/feces from reaching the underneath cage, if the upper dog is moving around.”

Then a repeat. “During your inspection and reference [sic] the stacked dog cages. Did you notice if the upper cages had a floor of some sort to catch fecal matter or urine so it didn’t drop into the lower cage? Same for cats?”125 They failed to mention ARK provided new plush beds for all kennel dogs.

**October 31** - While the secret hunt to prove cruelty progressed with a vengeance, Hall met with Assistant Manager Dale Arrington and Acting Police Chief Batten to discuss possible sites for a mutual rescue facility. Batten admitted drywalls at Second Chance had to be replaced because of the stench from housing animals in a small enclosed area devoid of sunlight and fresh air. The city was attempting to prove ARK was abusing animals yet Second Chance was breaking state animal care laws.

Hall complained to Batten that ARK volunteers were being spied on, adding “I registered my dogs so you can’t get me.” She also said Detective Sanchez harassed a volunteer, desperately visiting her home in DeBary and frightening the volunteer’s son when he refused to tell Sanchez where his mother was working.126 Sanchez scurried from city to city tracking down ARK volunteers to question, “Was Daniel Johnson sleeping at the Center?”127

Batten didn’t bat an eye when Hall complained, responding, “Sanchez thinks Johnson is living there because he’s taking showers.” Hall asked for proof. Batten was unable to supply it.

Sanchez was desperate to pin Johnson’s location day and night at ARK. Around the clock police surveillance, claims of showering, Sanchez driving all over the county evidenced things were crazy with DeLand’s police and a total waste of public funds. What was really going on? An investigation of animal abuse or an excuse to prove Johnson was living permanently at ARK’s Center and for what purpose?

That afternoon Arrington emailed Hall with questions about the property they had discussed. Hall called the real estate listing agent then responded back to Arrington. Located three blocks from city hall, the property would have been ideal for an animal shelter.128

**November 1** – Per Hall’s request, ARK Board Member Kim Eastin emailed Gloria Thomas, over twenty years director of the rundown mostly vacant West Volusia Humane Society. The offer was for ARK to pay Thomas $1,000 a month to use her dilapidated facility so ARK could move from its present location.

**(UNKNOWN TO ARK**: Thomas forwarded the email to her husband, the city’s dog catcher, who then forwarded it to the police department.)129

**November 5** – *(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Another “complaint” rolled in to the police from “Lisa Stearns” who had no connection to ARK. The police didn’t require she come to the station to document her complaint.)*130 Several months earlier Chief Ridgeway demanded that all complaints regarding the city’s Second Chance must be placed in writing at the police station, signed by the person lodging the complaint. That put a swift end to complaints; fearing police retribution is a good silencer.

Incredibly that same day and knowing that he and his crew were scrounging around for “proof” ARK and Hall were abusing animals, Deputy Chief Henderson, helping with the investigation against ARK, called Hall requesting ARK take yet another dog that bit an officer. As usual Hall agreed.

**November 6** - Two days prior to the RAID dog catcher Gary Thomas delivered the city’s biter to ARK. Thomas refused to take the dog to the building, did not bring the paperwork, and remained beside his truck at the edge of the street, warning the volunteer, “That dog is vicious.”131

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125 Emails between Realander, Ellison, Henderson, and McWhorter, 10.30.12
126 Interview with Clauss and Paula Logan, 10.18.12
127 Interview with Claussen and Shannon Peoples, former Center tenant fired by Julie Beard, 10.18.12
128 Emails between Arrington and Hall, 10.31.12
129 Emails between Eastin and Thomas, 11.1.13
130 Handwritten complaint from Sterns to police, 11.5.12
131 In conversation with Hall, 11.6.12
(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Thomas, having never left his truck parked at the road, never going to the Center, placed in writing at the police station that ARK’s dogs had no food or water.)\textsuperscript{132}

A few hours later Detective Sanchez roared into the Center and marched defiantly into the building with a subpoena. “I want copies of ARK’s volunteer forms since July,” she demanded. Jennifer Johnson told Sanchez she didn’t have authorization. Sanchez left the subpoena, promising to return the next day.\textsuperscript{133} As Sanchez walked out she encountered a kenneled dog with diarrhea. Sanchez pulled out her camera and recorded the scene, evidently desperate for “proof” of cruelty.\textsuperscript{134}

After Sanchez stormed away Johnson went to Daniel Johnson’s attorney, Tanner Andrews. Andrews wrote a “Motion to Quash” the subpoena instructing Johnson to hand it to Sanchez when she returned.\textsuperscript{135} (Andrews later confirmed when ARK cooperated, because it had nothing to hide, and gave Sanchez the forms, Sanchez called parents of females under 18 to ascertain if the registered sex offender had inappropriately touched their daughters. Sanchez got nothing from her obsessive witch hunt.)\textsuperscript{136}

Dr. Holder, veterinarian and owner of FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital located adjacent to ARK, visited the Center to exam the cats in isolation. She reported to her mother, Maggi Hall, that none needed hospitalization as all were improving.\textsuperscript{137}

That afternoon Julie Osborne, Daytona Beach attorney and animal rescue advocate, visited ARK for the first time. She was impressed with the facility and the care of the animals. She called Hall to explain how pleased she was – and “with so many animals – all were well cared for.”\textsuperscript{138}

November 7 – Eastin emailed Thomas nudging her for a decision. Thomas replied, “Unfortunately, I have received the directors [sic] decision and they said that they will pass on your proposal.” ARK’s Board got a laugh out of her “directors’ decision” response knowing Thomas and her two women board did nothing. Had Thomas partnered with ARK it would have endangered Thomas’ financial “set-up” and revealed the truth about what was happening at her “shelter.”

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Thomas forwarded the email to husband Gary, city dog catcher, who then forwarded it to his buddies on the police force.)\textsuperscript{139}

Detective Yohana Sanchez reappeared as promised the day before. Jennifer Johnson handed her the attorney’s document. Sanchez glanced at it and raged, “This isn’t what I came for” and stalked away.\textsuperscript{140}

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: A city employee visited ARK to take numerous photographs of the animals evidently for proof of abuse.)\textsuperscript{141} In reality over a year later when ARK received a copy of the photos taken they depicted healthy looking animals in clean cages with food and water. These photographs did not appear in court for the public hearing.

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: After the departure of the empty-handed Sanchez, Michelle Realander flew into action, obtaining an even more insidious document than Sanchez’s subpoena; Realander acquired a search warrant accusing ARK of animal cruelty.\textsuperscript{142}

\textsuperscript{132} DeLand Police Department, Thomas, 11.7.12
\textsuperscript{133} In the Circuit Court, 7th Judicial, Volusia Co. FL., 11.5.12
\textsuperscript{134} Email from Sanchez to McWhorter, 11.7.12
\textsuperscript{135} Motion to Quash, Andrews, 11.6.12
\textsuperscript{136} Reported to ARK’s attorney, Andrews, by Kim Webb, ARK Board member, regarding her daughter
\textsuperscript{137} In conversation with Holder, 11.6.12
\textsuperscript{138} Call from Osborne to Hall, 11.6.12
\textsuperscript{139} Email from Gloria Thomas to Eastin and forwarded to Gary Thomas who forwarded it to the police, 11.7.12
\textsuperscript{140} Interview with Johnson, 11.7.12
\textsuperscript{141} Photographs from city, 11.7.12
\textsuperscript{142} Search Warrant in the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court, Volusia Co., FL, 11.7.12
(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Late that evening a city employee surreptitiously visited ARK to photograph outside dogs.) The photo (L) was taken late at night. Note the security light shining on the cages and the dogs’ eyes glowing. The cages were under a large roof, protected from rain; the igloo at the rear in an open dog run. ARK had $250 igloos in ten outdoor kennels. The cages and kennel are clean; no poop, no urine. Large beds were in each kennel.

This photograph speaks the truth. Taken late at night, within hours of the RAID, there was no evidence of cruelty. There had been no photographs of animals in danger, no witnesses, no warnings, no fines against ARK – nothing – yet violent city staffers maliciously set their sights for destruction.

Scene 2 – DeLand’s Day of Infamy: The Violent Raid

“Against stupidity the gods themselves contend in vain.” — Friedrich Schiller

Fascism: “A governmental system…forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, regimenting...commerce, and emphasizing an aggressive nationalism and often racism.” – Webster’s Dictionary

November 8 - Thursday, 8:15am, the day that lives in infamy for the City of DeLand, Michelle Realander and a dozen city employees invaded ARK, search warrant in hand asserting “animal cruelty and confinement of animals” coordinating the event, barking orders to her uniformed army.

State Statue 828.12 Cruelty to animals. — (1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done...is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in § 775.082 or by a fine of not more than $5,000, or both.

143 Photographs found in the police department’s “White book” kept on ARK and Hall, 11.7.12
144 Search Warrant in the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court, Volusia Co., FL, and amended search warrant, 11.7.12 signed by Terence Perkins the day after the raid and signed by James Clayton
145 Florida State Statute 828.12, Cruelty to Animals
Shelters don’t open to the public until feeding and cleaning are complete; and for the Kill Shelters, after the carcasses have been removed. **It was no coincidence Dog Catcher Realander arrived **BEFORE **CHORES **were complete; her timing PREMEDITATED just as every one of her inspections had been.**

Four ARK volunteers were interrupted in their early morning duties. Realander (L) ordered volunteers to cease feeding, medicating, cleaning, and walking animals. They were escorted off the property by Officer Trinity Petrella while Officer Juan Millan videotaped the production.

A volunteer noted in shock that another officer removed the dog’s beds from their kennels before taping the “evidence” then replacing the beds. Millan’s video, the city’s property, illegally was uploaded to YouTube for the world to see.

From 8:30am until late into the night Realander **DID NOT ALLOW** medicines to be administered to sick animals. She refused food, fresh water, or exercise. Litter boxes remained full from the night before. Realander refused to allow them cleaned. Kenneled dogs wet beds as volunteers, by then increased to eight, pled from behind yellow crime tape to let them care for the animals. **Continually Realander refused.**

As the RAID progressed helicopters clattered above. Yellow crime tape encircled a half acre corner lot on the main thoroughfare through downtown DeLand. Road blocks cordoned off a street. Four police cars, a dog catcher truck, eight officers, and the city’s largest fire truck with its hazmat-outfitted three-man crew blazed into action.

A dozen television, radio, and newspaper teams, alerted in advance, arrived with cameras, microphones, tape recorders, and notepads, ready to record the frenzy. It would be understandable to assume the police had cornered a drug cartel boss. So overwhelming with city vehicles and manpower that bystanders gathering on the perimeter of the property questioned, **“Who’s been killed?”**

Whoever ordered the raid, possibly Realander’s boss, Matt Adair (Far L), or up the chain of command to Manager Pleus (L), or Assistant Manager Arrington, Chief Ridgeway or Deputy Chief Henderson, none were present during the illegal confiscation of private property. All remained invisible, secure in their offices far from the atrocity playing out on Woodland Boulevard; **bullies in hiding.**

**Kim Eastin, ARK Board Member and thirteen year veteran with the Daytona Beach Police **arrived with Hall, having been called by Center volunteers. As a courtesy for Eastin’s police credentials, an officer escorted her through the Center while Hall, ARK’s Founder and community leader was banned like a common criminal. Eastin disgustedly reported after visiting the Center, “This is bull! Those animals are fine!”

While crowds gathered and traffic slowed on Woodland Boulevard a dazed Maggi Hall stood across the street phoning Mayor Robert Apgar (L). “Bob, do you know what the city is doing to our animals?” The mayor claimed to know nothing about a major police raid planned in advance using public funds. Every major news

146 Video taken by Millan and uploaded to YouTube within hours of the raid, 11.8.12
147 Interviews with Jennifer and Daniel Johnson, and Jim Brown, 11.8.12
148 Interview with Claussen, 11.8.12
149 Reported to ARK Board by numerous bystanders, 11.8.12
150 Interview with Brown, News-Journal, 11.9.12
151 Interview with Eastin, 11.9.12
outlet was informed in advance but not the mayor? (A year later when documents were obtained through the Florida Sunshine Law it was discovered Apgar knew far more than his “innocent” reply.)

“They’re taking them!” Hall cried. Apgar assured Hall he’d investigate and call back. Hours later Hall called Apgar again because he’d not kept his promise. Apgar then claimed to be at city hall with Assistant Manager Arrington learning what he described as the “truth.” Apgar said, “We know your heart is in the right place, but we have proof….” yet failed to reveal the “so-called proof.”

Receiving no help from Apgar, Hall called Commissioner Leigh Matusick (Far L) who hugged Hall every time she saw her. Matusick also claimed ignorance but promised to investigate. She wasn’t courteous or professional enough even to call back.

Hall then phoned Deputy Police Chief Randel Henderson (L) who consistently requested ARK take biting dogs and emailed Hall animal stories and photos of his adopted son. Hall pled for help. Henderson coldly responded, “We can’t stop it.”

Hall called Manager Michael Pleus who was “conveniently” away so she dialed Assistant Manager Dale Arrington (L) who claimed she couldn’t stop the raid, adding “someone” drove by the Center last night when the temperature was around 44 degrees.

Hall retorted, “Dale, the dogs have huge soft beds and it wasn’t cold.” Arrington replied, “Oh” as if she’d not heard the truth from her “spy.” Obviously she’d not seen the photos taken the night before showing beds in the kennels - or possibly she didn’t care.

Hall’s repeated calls throughout the day left on the police answering machine were ignored. Stonewalling was the game the City of DeLand played.

Hall called Tanner Andrews, Daniel Johnson’s attorney, who came to the site and counseled, “Let it take its course.” Miguel Abi-Hassan, Director of Halifax Humane Society phoned advising Hall remain calm and to give support stating he knew ARK wasn’t abusing animals.

Rushing to the scene were Gloria Thomas and her sidekick, Karen Clark, the only critic at the hearing when Hall offered for ARK to run the city’s Second Chance program. Thomas, wife of DeLand’s Dog Catcher Gary Thomas, had, for over two decades controlled the West Volusia Humane Society, a facility noted for warehousing animals.

Hall and FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital attempted several years earlier to save the 90+ animals from West Volusia, offering to pay Thomas $85 each, the majority of the cats and dogs and birds cruelly having lived in cages for up to seven years. When Thomas refused the offer several animal advocates became suspicious and began an investigation.

A website was created to publicize the shelter’s cruelty, lack of care, few adoptions, and Thomas’ $35,000 salary. It’s easier to hoard than to operate an aggressive adoption program and it’s also more lucrative, especially when the public doesn’t know what’s happening behind closed gates.

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152 Email from Pleus to Ridgeway and Arrington, 1.22.12
153 Interview with Hall, 11.9.12
154 Ibid.
155 Ibid.
156 Ibid.
157 Ibid.
158 http://humanetoanimals.blogspot.com
159 Ibid.
Trixie (L), was refused treatment or adoption and died caged; a slow, lonely death.\textsuperscript{160} One volunteer wrote, “One conversation from Gary [Thomas] burns me up. When WVHS was a killing facility (which it still is only the animals die a long slow death) after euthanizing the dogs one day and throwing them out the window they put them in a circle, putting the tails of each dog in the mouth of the dog in front of him or her and leaving them until they became stiff, to make it almost impossible to open their mouths. This was all done to play a joke on one of the workers up there. This is the mentality of some people that represent the City of Deland.”\textsuperscript{161}

Kennel cards (L) proved animals were imprisoned for up to seven years at the WVHS and they still are; this is the place the City of DeLand took ARK’s stolen animals.\textsuperscript{162} Curious why no one cares enough to close the place down and she had a registered sex offender working and living on site. But her property wasn’t valuable like ARK’s.

Hall became busy developing ARK and had no time to pursue action against Thomas. It also seemed to Hall everyone was afraid of Thomas including county council members who granted the West Volusia Humane Society the land and even the \textit{West Volusia Beacon}.\textsuperscript{163}

When Hall went to the shelter with a \textit{Beacon} reporter, Thomas contacted the sheriff and had Hall banned from the property.\textsuperscript{164} The reporter took photos and rushed back to submit the story. Thomas contacted the editor, threatening a lawsuit if a story was written. That was the last time the paper wrote an article about the place. Intimidation is a sport in DeLand, even frightening the media into silence.

When the commissioners voted to stop killing animals and open a holding shelter Hall suggested to attorney Elkind and Manager Pleus that the city partner with the West Volusia Humane Society. Hall shared her research, warning Elkind he wouldn’t believe the story but if the city could acquire the property it would be ideal once it was rehabilitated. Elkind did believe Hall and wrote a contract to rent space at the facility. Thomas shrewdly declined. Had she partnered with a public entity her records would be subject to scrutiny.\textsuperscript{165}

Eventually the city paid Thomas to board dogs her husband picked up until ARK had space, yet the city never offered ARK financial support. On numerous occasions Thomas demanded city dogs be removed immediately thus causing the city to rush to ARK for assistance.

ARK was under siege by the city it aided yet nothing changed at ARK in two years - \textit{nothing except ARK’s land had become quite valuable and ideal for a bus station office – a much needed facility in order to reclaim Greyhound!}\textsuperscript{166}

Thomas (L) and Clark had no reason to be present at the raid. Throughout the long day Clark scurried from one media outlet to another giving interviews reviling ARK. Though she had never set foot in ARK’s building or assisted with rescue efforts, her intent was to damage ARK as she did with other groups including Journey’s End and veterinarian Rocky Esposito. Wrote one irate citizen, “She [Clark] is a spoiler who

\textsuperscript{160} Interview with former volunteers, Judy and Bill Ziegler, 4.10.08
\textsuperscript{161} Email from former volunteer Ziegler to Hall, 12.13.12
\textsuperscript{162} Photograph of kennel card dated 8.6.02 taken by Hall, 4.12.08
\textsuperscript{163} http://humanetoanimals.blogspot.com
\textsuperscript{164} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{165} Ibid.
causes dissention in every way she can."166

Indeed, Clark’s voice and face aired repeatedly on television as she swaggered from one media outlet to another celebrating the event. Clark was a “featured” witness testifying to anyone that would jot down what she was saying. To the *West Volusia Beacon* she railed, “I’ve never been inside the facility, or on the property, but I have friends who are volunteers.... I relied on what they were expressing to me about the conditions inside.”167

While Thomas crouched in her car watching the confusion Clark smirked at Hall, “This is the happiest day of my life. I’ve been waiting a long time for this.” Kim Eastin retorted, “I heard that, Karen.”168 Hall was stunned silent, unable to fathom the viciousness of Clark and her lack of concern for innocent animals.

Clark then called Nan Smith, an ARK supporter and Clark acquaintance. “Guess where I am? The parking lot across from ARK watching Maggi’s animals taken away. It’s the greatest day of my life.” Clark “confided” in Smith that she had lodged complaints against ARK and Hall.169

Clark even bragged to Pat Chadwick, reporter for *The City Observer*, that “she told us that she made one of the complaints even tho’ she’d never stepped foot inside ARK. She’s from We Help Animals. I’m wondering if the other complaints were from people with We Help Animals, too?”170

Dozens of people were interviewed by the newspapers and television stations defending ARK, saying they’d adopted from ARK or were volunteers. The City of DeLand wasn’t seeking truth.

Hours later Realander called in Erin Gray, two years out of vet school and working at Val-U-Vet. Everyone wondered why Realander didn’t use the adjacent veterinary hospital, FloridaWild. Gray’s “suspicious” exam took less than an hour for over 100 cats and dogs. *Gray’s unproven and undocumented conclusion: All were in desperate shape and needed confiscation.* What a profound lie. ARK’s animals were in excellent shape and ready for adoption except the cats in isolation that were patients of FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital.

By 2pm Realander and her fanatics had contacted kill shelters in Seminole and Flagler, but refused to call Halifax Humane Society 20 miles away probably because city officials knew ARK and HHS were working together and HHS’s director knew there was no cruelty at ARK. When trucks arrived to kidnap ARK’s animals Realander demanded Hall come back on the property, threatening her with “Sign them over. It’ll look better for you in court.”171

Hands trembling, eyes blurred, Hall was coerced into selecting twelve fully vetted highly adoptable dogs and release them in response to Realander’s ultimatum. Jennifer Johnson gave the names of the dogs to kill shelter employees while Realander had the documents Hall sign read twice. It appeared to observers Hall was in shock.172 When Hall asked Realander why she was doing this Realander replied, “I don’t have to tell you anything or put anything in writing.”173

Realander ordered Hall sign the remainder of the dogs over to the West Volusia Humane Society. When Hall refused, knowing how cruel the place was, Realander ordered Gary Thomas to take the dogs to his wife’s filthy facility. Johnson told Realander that Misty (L) had been paid for and adopted and was boarding until the following week. He needed to go next door to FloridaWild. **Realander refused, knowingly stealing private property.**

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166 Email to ARK Board of Directors from Nan Smith, 11.9.12
168 Interview with Eastin, 11.8.12
169 Email from Smith to Hall, 11.9.12
170 Email from Chadwick to Hall, 8.23.13
171 Interview with Hall, 11.8.12
172 Interview with Claussen, 11.8.12
173 Interview with Hall, 11.10.12
Frightened and handled roughly the dogs were pulled and pushed into Gary Thomas’ truck and driven away, a scene airing repeatedly on television.

Realander confiscated another dog not released by Hall. Tiny, frightened, and severely injured, Coco was unable to walk when rescued from the Lake County Kill Shelter the week she was to be exterminated. She was recovering from expensive surgery completed at FloridaWild.

Realander’s operatives cruelly disallowed Coca to be taken outside to use the bathroom. Eventually she was removed from her then urine saturated kennel to the cold metal surface of a truck and whisked away, no soft bed to cushion her hour long ride. Throughout the long sad day volunteers pled with Realander to allow Coco to use the bathroom. Realander refused. Since Coco was a FloridaWild patient Hall requested Coco be taken to her doctor next door. Realander refused. Realander definitely was not at ARK to save animals.

As the hours passed cats were brought out into the parking lot in small carriers. When Hall and a volunteer were ordered back on the property Hall took a photo of cats in their clean cages (L). An officer demanded Hall stop, claiming she was “interfering with a crime scene.” And this was evidence of cruelty? Clean cages? No wonder police refused photos.

Realander wrote a useless physical description of each cat though Jennifer Johnson begged Realander to let her give their names in order to match them with their medical records. Realander refused. Johnson asked to place an ID on each carrier. Realander refused. Hall told her one of the cats was boarding and needed to go to FloridaWild. Realander refused.

(The cat’s owner never located her pet.)

Hall was coerced into signing away twelve dogs but no cats. ARK’s animals were illegally confiscated by a vindictive city out of control; ARK’s property becoming the city’s contraband.

As the day wore wretchedly on more rescue groups arrived to take cats. FloridaWild employees observed unattended cats in carriers left in the cold dark parking lot until after 8pm. Not until the following day were the remaining cats, 35, removed from their comfortable Cat Suite. Fifty cats went to a cat rescue group which later notified ARK they were healthy. ARK knew that as did the three veterinarians caring for them.

It is incomprehensible how the city claimed its actions were in the best interests of the animals when the animals were removed from a no-kill facility and turned over to facilities that exterminated if animals were not adopted quickly or warehoused at the West Volusia Humane Society (L).

Realander ordered records confiscated: treatment charts, microchip and rabies tags, and notes from former owners. Identifying records

174 FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital medical records, 10.25.12
175 Interview with Johnson to ARK members, 11.8.12
176 Interview with Johnson, 11.14.12
177 Surrendered Animals, Animal Service Division, 11.8.12
178 Interview with Brittney Hogue, FloridaWild Hospital Administrator, 11.9.12
179 Cherie of Angels Have Whiskers to Eastin, 11.11.12
180 Dr. Larkin of Altamonte Veterinary Hospital; Dr. Holder and Dr. Rand from FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital, 11.9.12
were separated from the animals and never followed them to their new locations yet the city proclaimed its need to protect ARK’s abused animals. City staffers were nothing more than vicious thugs.

Approximately 100 cats and 27 dogs, fully vettet, healthy, except the 30+ felines in isolation, were stolen; their charts, medicines, medical records, rabies and microchip tags stolen by DeLand’s Gestapo where they remain today. The city, claiming concern for the welfare of ARK’s animals, never cared enough to reunite animals with their records much less find out their names or health needs.

Michelle Realander and the city hoodlums impounded medicines worth over a thousand dollars. They were never returned to ARK; the city’s confiscation UNCONSTITUTIONAL.181

The three dozen sick felines in isolation and under FloridaWild’s care were transported to DeLand Animal Hospital rather than taken next door. DeLand Animal Hospital posted on its website that ARK’s severely ill cats needed homes, a bizarre plea since sick cats illegally confiscated from an isolation ward needed to remain isolated, not placed in homes.182

A kitten on a heating pad was ordered removed by Realander and carted away to die at DeLand Animal Hospital; ironically DeLand’s first “rescued” fatality.183

City officials sent ARK’s animals to the following locations: Seminole Co. - 6; Val-U-Vet - 1; Flagler Co. - 6; WWHS - 14; ARNI - 23; DeLand Animal Hospital - 19; Angels Have Whiskers - 50.184

The story made front-page news in the West Volusia Beacon,185 the News-Journal,186 newspaper blogs, and TV stations across Florida. ARK had been in business rescuing animals for six years. On numerous occasions DeLand expressed appreciation to ARK, met multiple times with Hall to implement a plan to combine facilities; yet now the city was destroying ARK.

Witnesses unrelated to ARK watching from the sidelines kept reiterating to ARK volunteers: “The city wants your land. The city wants your land.”187 But volunteers couldn’t fathom such a heinous and criminal attempt.

November 9 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: The search warrant was amended the day after the raid to include a substantial amount of false statements by city personnel.)188

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Friday afternoon the Center was empty; the remaining cats in the Cat Suite were hauled away. Michelle Realander requested Val-U-Vet Erin Gray return to video the “crime scene” as evidence was needed to support the claim of animal cruelty.)189

ARK received dozens of support calls and emails but one of the most astute emails was from another animal rescuer: "Sorry you got F--- by Karen Clark. ...she came after us for years. She is always trying to get rescues that do good...hurt. I think we should look into her rescue...."190

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181 List of medicines confiscated, police department, 11.8.12
182 DeLand Animal Hospital Facebook blog, 11.10.12
183 Ibid.
184 City list and dispersal of confiscated animals, 11.9.11
185 “Dogs taken from ARK animal rescue in DeLand placed in homes,” West Volusia Beacon, 11.8.12
187 As told to L. Claussen, ARK Board Member
188 Amended Search Warrant in the 7th Judicial Circuit Court, Volusia Co., FL, James Clayton, 11.9.12
189 Videotape taken by Realander and Gray, 11.9.12
190 Email from Kim Grooms to Hall, 11.9.12
Scene 3 – City Staff Trashes ARK’s Center

To DeLand City Officials: “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way in which its animals are treated.” -- Gandhi

November 10 - At noon the Center was released to ARK. Kim Eastin, board member and former police detective allowed in during the raid, Linda Claussen, board member with camera, and Hall walked onto the porch. Claussen photographed blood on the porch where a cage of kittens had returned three days earlier from being sterilized; their blood evidence of heartless mishandling.

Screaming silence and devastation suffocated the women: furniture overturned; feces on the table; food and water bowls empty or filled with feces; a food bag torn open and tossed on the floor for cats to fend for themselves; plush new beds drenched in urine. Here was visual proof Michelle Realander and her soldiers cared not at all for the welfare of the animals. The photographs indict DeLand City Hall and police.

But the horror that awaited the volunteers when they entered the Cat Suite broke their hearts. Vomit and diarrhea everywhere, proof the cats suffered severe anxiety during the raid. Water bowls

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191 Photographs by Claussen, 11.9.12
empty. Litter boxes so full cats used food bowls, floor, and beds to relieve themselves. Furniture and climbing towers were overturned as Realander’s operatives sought to retrieve frightened cats. The devastation was the result of police violence and the cruel fact that ARK volunteers were intentionally prevented by Michelle Realander to care for the animals under her watch.

Claussen photographed evidence as Eastin repeated again and again: “I don’t believe this. It wasn’t like this when the police took me through during the raid!”192

One of the most heartless and obscene comments made to the West Volusia Beacon came from Deputy Chief Randel Henderson regarding the cats in their once peaceful Cat Suite. He callously and proudly boasted:

“We had a rescue group take possession of an estimated 40 cats. We were jokingly calling the officers corralling the cats “cat wranglers.” I would love to see the video.”193

Imagine claiming to be concerned about the animals yet laughing as persecution and misery swept over ARK’s innocent cats as they were chased, caged, and carried away from their once pleasant Cat Suite.

For every negative comment in the newspapers there were three or more positive ones. People who cared knew the truth. From the day of the raid and throughout November a feeding frenzy of comments were emailed or mailed to city hall and ARK; the majority in support of ARK. The on-line West Volusia Beacon and News-Journal blogs allowed horrific anonymous comments. Folks who wrote with support for ARK signed their names while cowards and liars hid behind anonymity. Newspapers will do anything to sell their rag.

November 12 - ARK volunteers found several dozen cat medical records overlooked by city zealots (L) during the raid. They went to DeLand Animal Hospital to match the cats with their records. The owners of the hospital, Deborah Ulbrich and Thomas MacPhail, denied permission. They refused volunteers to see the cats. Why would they, supposedly devoted to animal welfare, deny the humane request to match animals with paperwork?194

For several weeks after the raid DeLand Animal Hospital allowed slanderous remarks posted on its blog against ARK, Hall, Dr. Holder, and FloridaWild, though the worst were eventually removed.195

When volunteers visited ARNI in Daytona they discovered HIV/AIDS kittens which had been isolated at ARK now mingled with healthy kittens. ARNI never received medical records from the city and chose not to contact ARK. When ARNI refused animals for surrender employees told those in desperation to call ARK. ARK never refused. The vindictive behavior and lack of care by city officials endangered the lives of ARNI’s healthy cats by giving them ARK’s HIV/AIDS kittens.196

Karen Clark was quoted in the West Volusia Beacon speaking with authority that she’d never been inside ARK but complained about overcrowding, sick animals, sick animals being adopted, improper nutrition, and failure to give adopters paperwork.197

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: One of the most absurd Voluntary Witness Statements submitted to police came from Karen Clark, friend of Gary Thomas, city dog catcher, and wife Gloria, of the infamous West

192 Interview with Eastin, 11.9.12
193 “Court date set to decide fate of animals seized from DeLand shelter,” West Volusia Beacon, 11.12.12
194 Visited by Tracy Lavino and Kasey Benton, and Jennifer Johnson, 11.29.12
195 Printed by Claussen, 11.21.12
196 Visited by Lavino, Benton, and Johnson, 11.29.12
197 “Dogs taken from ARK animal rescue in DeLand placed in homes,” West Volusia Beacon, 11.8.12
Volusia Humane Society. Clark signed an affidavit stating: “I am requesting a ‘whistleblower’ protection from Maggie Hall, ARK, including staff, corporate board, volunteers and supporters. Threats were made by her staff the day of the seizure of animals...her reputation reaches far and wide. Maggie Hall is known to retaliate....” On and on she blathered not understanding the Whistleblower’s Act only protects those who tell the truth.)

The Cast

Dedicated to DeLand City Staff, Commissioners, and Their Witnesses

“All the world’s a stage, and all the men and woman merely players.
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts....
A soldier full of strange oaths....
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation even in the cannon’s mouth....
Last scene of all, that ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness, and mere oblivion....” – As You Like It, Shakespeare

DeLand’s Public Employees and Commissioners: Manager Michael Pleus; Police Chief Bill Ridgeway; Deputy Chief Gary Batten; Deputy Chief Randel Henderson; Assistant Manager Dale Arrington; Chief Building Official Matt Adair; Code Enforcement Officer Mark Ellison; Dog Catcher Michelle Realander; Detective Yohana Sanchez; Attorney Darren Elkind; Dog Catcher Gary Thomas; Police Officers T.J. Petrella, Juan Millan, Greg McWhorter; Several Firemen; Commissioners Mayor Bob Apgar, Charles Paiva, Leigh Matusick, Vonzelle Johnson, Phil Martin.

“True is the saying that ‘every Cock is proud on his own dunghill.’” -- Remains, Camden 1674

DeLand’s Witnesses at the Hearing: Val-U-Vet Erin Gray; DeLand Animal Hospital owners Deborah Ulbrich and Thomas MacPhail; Dog Catcher Michelle Realander; Detective Yohana Sanchez; Officer Juan Millan.

“If you have integrity, nothing else matters.” -- Alan Simpson

ARK’s Witnesses at the Hearing: Attorney and animal rescue activist Julie Osborne; Attorney Anissa Bolton; Police Detective/ARK Board Kim Eastin; Licensed Dog Behaviorist Ali Curtiss and an ARK rescue she trained as a service dog; Altamonte Animal Hospital Manager Melissa Coleman representing Dr. Glen Larkin, DVM; FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital Owner/Veterinarian Dr. Erin Holder; Center Tenant Jennifer Johnson; Center Night Watchman Daniel Johnson; Animal Caregiver Jim Brown; Center Receptionist Tera Updike; ARK President Maggi Hall. More than two dozen additional witnesses asked to testify.

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199 List of ARK witnesses, Tanner Andrews, 11.19.12
The Production

Scene 1 - The Public Hearing

Dedicated to City Attorney Darren Elkind:
“Not surprisingly, lawyers proliferate like flies…rustling in their silks…and chains of gold, they build gorgeous houses, sumptuous edifices…. At the expense of others…. In presence of their clients, they will be so earnest one with another… but immediately after their clients being gone, they laugh in their sleeves, to see how prettily they fetch in such sums of money…. Little wonder that bringing suit is often more headache than it’s worth. The more ye stir a turd, the worse it will stink.” – Remains, Camden, 1674

November 19 – By the day of the hearing ARK had received hundreds of dollars in donations to cover legal fees. Letters of support were mailed, emailed, and hand delivered to Manager Pleus, Assistant Manager Arrington, and Mayor Apgar. Those letters didn’t appear in Court and neither did Pleus, Arrington, or Apgar.

The hearing was held at the Volusia County Courthouse to decide the dispersal of the confiscated animals; not to address allegations of animal cruelty though that was exactly what Elkind planned to do. Darren Elkind squirmed with excitement in anticipation of publicly unveiling on wide screen the city’s “surprise” evidence Elkind illegally withheld from ARK’s attorney during discovery.

Support for ARK was remarkable. The assigned Courtroom was small so only a few dozen were allowed entry. In fact, officials at the front door of the courthouse asked visitors which case they were coming to hear. When they answered ARK they were turned away. The hall outside the Courtroom was packed, standing room only. ARK’s dozen witnesses and another two dozen begging to testify were allowed in the Courtroom as well as those supporting the city.

The media was present inside and out, cameras and notepads geared for action. Also present were Gloria Thomas and sidekick Karen Clark, who “happened” to need a rolling walker to wander through the corridors though during the raid she was a bubbling spring of energy rushing from one media source to another. Clark’s roller was piled high with documents which made ARK supporters surmise she fed fuel to the city’s fire against ARK and Hall.

ARK witnesses included two attorneys who recently visited the Center, a veterinarian, a veterinarian’s hospital manager, adopters, volunteers, a child who penned a supportive poem, and a licensed dog behaviorist who adopted a dog ARK took from DeLand’s Second Chance. She trained him as a service dog. He was at her side to testify for ARK.

Tanner Andrews, ARK’s attorney as well as Daniel Johnson’s, pulled a wagon brimming with hundreds of documents into Court.

Judge Green entered the Courtroom, the crown fell silent, and the saga unfolded.

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200 Case No 2012 23623 CONS in the County Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, in and for Volusia County FL, 11.19.12
Attorney Darren Elkind (L) took center stage, itching to perform; his dramatic remarks spewing forth: “Your Honor, ARK was not a ‘No Kill Facility;’ it was a ‘Slow Kill Facility,’ and we can prove it.” Animals hadn’t died at the Center and Elkind had no proof; his statement was disgusting and false. But ARK soon would learn Elkind often made deceitful remarks.

Then Elkind exploded in feigned outrage, “And there was something funny going on with the mortgage payments. ARK’s adoption money paid the mortgage!” His second false claim to the Court insinuated fraud. ARK owned the building; it should pay the mortgage. But only twice was ARK able to pay the $1,900 monthly payment. The lender, United Southern Bank, required Hall and her husband remain on the note to protect the property from foreclosure. Only ARK’s Board knew who paid the mortgage: Dr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Hall.

Elkind wanted people to believe Hall was profiting personally from selling animals and at the same time abusing them. Had he no shame?

“Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with important matters.” -- Albert Einstein

After Elkind’s flood of falsehoods he called Dog Catcher Michelle Realander to the stand. Under oath Realander detailed the “horrible” conditions of the animals, her testimony conflicting with her prior report to her superiors that the animals didn’t need to be removed. Elkind asked Realander to interpret her video taken as her army stormed ARK as they intentionally interrupted volunteers’ early morning animal care routine.

It was no coincidence Realander (L) arrived at 8:30am. She knew ARK didn’t open to the public until 10am after care giving duties were complete - like all shelters. Arriving before volunteers finished their chores would give city staff great photographs of litter boxes filled during the night. What could be more perfect than to raid a facility BEFORE morning cleaning and feeding had been completed?

In the first scene as they approached the building in their surprise attack, Realander and her filmmaker, Officer Juan Millan, “captured” Daniel Johnson, the “registered sex offender,” cleaning a dog kennel – which was what he was supposed to do. The officials wandered inside “catching” another volunteer coming out of the cat isolation room with water bucket in hand - doing what she was supposed to do. In fact the city’s proof of animal cruelty showed the opposite - volunteers caring for animals.

The film crew then wandered outside to the back of the property to photograph a dog scratching the ground, nose pushing around in the dirt, his wading pool muddy because he loved rolling in dirt then splashing in water; the dog delivered to ARK two days prior to the raid as requested by Deputy Chief Randel Henderson because it had bitten an officer and everyone was afraid of him.

During her “interpretation” of the film Realander ignored the care volunteers were giving animals, only highlighting the dog eating dirt as if he were “starving” and the “filthy pool” as evidence of abuse. Realander failed to mention that shelters and hospitals don’t leave food in a kennel overnight just as humans don’t sit all day in front of a plate of meat and potatoes.
The video failed to reveal the shelf in the basement packed with dog and cat food – but then that would prove ARK had food – good food – disproving the city’s claim ARK hadn’t decent food for the animals (L).

In cross-examination ARK’s attorney asked Realander about an email she wrote Sergeant McWhorter stating “Animals do not need to be removed…..” Realander replied, “That’s what I thought, but I was told to confiscate them.”

“Who told you to confiscate them?” Andrews asked to which Realander replied “my boss” though she failed to mention his name and Andrews failed to request it. Sitting beside Elkind was Matt Adair, Chief Building Office, Realander’s supervisor and “close friend.” Adair chose not to attend the confiscation he ordered but was there to see the outcome. Matt Adair, who helped plan the raid, though told by his underling that the animals didn’t need to be taken, pompously ordered the raid anyway. Matt Adair, ex-Marine, finally garnered courage to appear in public though with a policeman at his side.

Elkind next called Erin Gray (L), a Val-U-Vet employee and former FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital LLC client. After graduating from veterinary school Gray sent her resume to FloridaWild. She wasn’t even invited for an interview. No one in the Courtroom except ARK’s attorney and Hall’s family knew Gray would be unreliable if not blatantly biased. Was this her moment for revenge?

Val-U-Vet was the city’s vet clinic, Manager Pleus’ clinic, and the clinic that settled a sizable lawsuit brought against it by FloridaWild. A fired FloridaWild staffer stole the hospital’s client database, got a job at Val-U-Vet, then uploaded the information so the clinic could announce in a mass mailing its new hire and grooming business, K9 Korner. However, not only did the hospital commit a felony it also made a false statement: Val-U-Vet didn’t own the name K9 Korner; FloridaWild did.\footnote{FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital LLC vs. Amy Susan Neiman and Val-U-Vet, Case # 2008-30084-CICI, 10.19.09}

As a reminder, FloridaWild’s owner, Dr. Erin Holder, was Maggi Hall’s daughter.

It was no coincidence Erin Gray was selected to testify against ARK, Hall, and FloridaWild. It was obvious she thoroughly enjoyed her charade. Comfortably seated in the witness stand and under oath, Erin Gray began narration of the most shocking piece of fabricated and trumped up evidence she and Realander generated: evidence illegally and intentionally withheld from ARK’s attorney during discovery in preparation for the hearing.

Gray’s “hard and visual proof of cruelty” was shocking because the video was not taken while the animals were on site; the video was taken more than 48 hours after the last time volunteers were allowed to complete their duties; 48 hours during which food, water, cleaning, medicating, litter box changing, and poop scooping were disallowed by DeLand officials. (UNKNOWN TO ARK; Gray wrote a ten page diatribe of lies for Darren Elkind even claiming she feed and watered the animals and poop scooped litter trays.)\footnote{Written statement from Erin Gray, 11.9.12} (ARK’s photos taken after the raid proved her “statement” false.)

ARK’s witnesses weren’t disturbed by the appalling video intended to substantiate cruelty; ARK had photographs of what city soldiers did to the Center after the raid. ARK’s witness, former detective Kim Eastin, allowed in as the raid unfolded would testify that the conditions she observed during the raid were not the images displayed on Gray’s video – further proof of a conspiracy.

In an attempt to establish Gray’s lack of credibility and obvious prejudice, ARK’s attorney asked Gray if she examined all animals. She responded yes and that they were in appalling shape. When Andrews asked if she had medical records to substantiate her findings she responded “No.” The woman claimed to have “examined” over 100 animals, found them in dire shape, demanded they be confiscated, yet had no medical records to back up her claim? (Numerous by-standers noted that Gray...}
was in the building less than an hour to examine over 100 animals. There was no way any vet could examine even a dozen animals in an hour.)

Witnesses waiting to testify later said Gray’s video was outrageous. “How can the city get away with something so deliberately false? And how can Gray live with herself?” they asked.

Elkind then called Detective Sanchez to the stand. The first statement Sanchez uttered, “A sex offender is living at ARK.”

Judge Green looked at Elkind with disdain, “What does that have to do with anything?” and ordered Sanchez’s statement struck from the record.

Elkind didn’t like Judge Green’s decision, arguing, “That sex offender kept good volunteers from going there. People were afraid of him.” Elkind’s inflammatory remarks were false. ARK’s attorney had a stack of volunteer forms to prove otherwise. But Elkind wasn’t interested in the truth.

Next Elkind called Jim Brown, a homeless volunteer who was spending a few weeks at the Center with his wife. Elkind’s first question to expose another “scruffy” volunteer who cleaned dog poop was, “Have you ever been convicted of a crime?” Brown answered yes. Apparently Elkind hoped to elicit further proof that ARK’s practice of recruiting “unsavory” volunteers in downtown DeLand frightened away reputable ones which then caused ARK’s animals to “supposedly” suffer.

Elkind next called Officer Juan Millan to describe the wretched scene and odor at the Center. Millan enjoyed his time on stage, dramatically “gagging” as he “claimed” he did when he walked into the Center. “You could smell it before you walked in the front door.”

Then Elkind unsheathed his dagger by calling to the stand Jennifer Johnson, the Center’s tenant. Johnson was required to read excerpts from her private diary. Elkind selected a segment where she expressed frustration because volunteers had not shown that day. Elkind apparently chose this isolated incident in an attempt to prove ARK didn’t care for animals. All Johnson had to do was pick up the phone and call for help and it arrived. ARK animals never wanted for anything. Johnson, her husband, and ARK volunteers from Stetson students to retirees to community service people took excellent care of the animals.

Did Elkind want to demonstrate to Judge Green that Johnson’s grammar was in need of correction to insinuate she couldn’t properly care for animals? (Johnson later said she believed Elkind was trying to embarrass her, to prove she was stupid and couldn’t care for animals. Johnson told the West Volusia Beacon she thought it “wasn’t fair that her words were used to make the place she calls home look bad. ‘They used my personal diary against me.’”) 205

Marching next to the witness stand were vets from DeLand Animal Hospital, husband and wife, Deborah Ulbrich and Thomas MacPhail (L), who received veterinary training at an unaccredited off-shore school. ARK used their clinic in desperation when eight puppies were abandoned in the wee hours of the morning and FloridaWild wasn’t open. ARK volunteers feared Parvo, a contagious virus, warning Ulbrich ARK had no money.

Ulbrich replied “No problem” but weeks later after the eight puppies died the hospital sent ARK a bill for over $3,800. For months the hospital’s attorney threatened ARK with a lawsuit so when the doctors strutted to the stand ARK’s attorney knew they’d be biased if not totally untruthful.

On cross examination ARK’s attorney asked MacPhail, “Can you describe the cats you received?” MacPhail, obviously befuddled by the simple and reasonable question, requested it be repeated. Andrews did to which MacPhail replied “Well, they have four legs; some are brown, some white.”

Evidently MacPhail and wife Ulbrich weren’t interested in the medical background of the cats because they didn’t request records from the city or ARK and the city didn’t care if the records were

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203 Interview with Brittney Hoag, 11.10.12
204 Statements from half a dozen in attendance at the hearing to Dr. Ronald Hall, 11.19.12
205 “For one woman, ARK is a welcome home,” West Volusia Beacon, 11.26.12
ever matched with ARK’s animals, further evidence the city and their vet witnesses cared little for the animals’ welfare.

MacPhail’s wife, Ulbrich, fared no better under cross-examination. Ulbrich stated cats required at least 4x4 cubic feet of space per cat, sick or healthy, insinuating ARK didn’t have appropriate housing yet she’d never been in ARK’s Center and had no idea the type of housing used.

Florida veterinarians are immune from prosecution for testifying in potential animal abuse cases. They cannot be held accountable for statements against an “alleged abuser.” They can say whatever they want. Anything goes and nothing can be done; no retribution for false statements, unprofessional conduct, misrepresentation, lying under oath, or retaliation. Erin Gray, Deborah Ulbrich, and Thomas McPhail knew there was nothing ARK could do about their despicable testimonies. They also knew city officials were their cloak of armor.206

Elkind finished. It was time to hear ARK’s story. Witnesses waiting to testify had far more impressive credentials than Elkind’s biased few. Julie Osborne, Daytona Beach attorney and long-time animal advocate visited the Center two days prior to the raid, calling Hall to exclaim, “The place and animals look wonderful!” 207

Also waiting to testify was Dr. Holder, the veterinarian who examined the cats in the isolation room two days earlier. Holder was an honor graduate and adjunct professor of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, a veterinarian for the Central Florida Zoo, published author, and winner of numerous awards including the National Senior Research Project for all veterinary colleges in the United States. Forget Holder was Maggi Hall’s daughter, her impeccable credentials spoke volumes.

Altamonte Veterinary Hospital’s office manager was to testify on Dr. Larken’s behalf. Additional credible witnesses were anxious to be heard.

Tanner Andrews called his first witness, Maggi Hall. For the first time since the hearing began Judge Green turned to face a witness. It appeared Green was genuinely interested in hearing ARK’s story. When city witnesses testified Green looked directly at Elkind, not his witnesses. But when Hall took the witness stand Green kept her eyes focused on Hall; Hall in turn looked directly at the Judge when answering questions.

Andrews asked Hall to describe forms which included ARK’s animal care protocol sheets, volunteer forms, and copies of medical treatments for 2012 (L), refuting the claim ARK didn’t keep records or properly care for the animals. Adoption and surrender forms were stolen by the city.208 But the city already had a copy of all of ARK’s records: medical, intake, adoption, volunteer; yet none were brought to court by the city.

Then Andrews pulled from his wagon a stack of photographs depicting the wanton destruction allowed by Realander and the city’s soldiers, asking Hall to describe the scenes.

Elkind jumped from his seat, protesting stridently, “No, we’re not going to allow that. There’s writing on those.”

But it wasn’t the writing on the photographs that frightened Elkind; it was the photos themselves – visual destruction by city employees. Elkind received copies of the incriminating photographs during discovery yet Elkind didn’t reveal to ARK’s attorney the videos taken the day of the raid or the following day by Erin Gray. There was no way Darren Elkind, DeLand City Hall, and the police wanted those photos made public.

“Yep, sure is.” quipped Andrews, “Descriptions of the scenes photographed after the raid.”

“No, can’t allow,” protested Elkind, obviously agitated.

206 Florida Veterinary Immunity Statute, F.S.A. § 828.12
207 In a phone conversation between Osborne and Hall, 11.6.12
208 Photograph of records presented as evidence, 11.17.12
“Okay,” cooperated Andrews, “then I guess I’ll just have to tear the comments off” and he proceeded to do so while Judge Green called a recess.

As Darren Elkind turned to leave the Courtroom he came face to face with an ARK witness and Elkind’s colleague, attorney Julie Osborne. Evidently shocked he worriedly exclaimed, “What are you doing here?” Osborne responded, “I’m here to testify on behalf of ARK’s animals.”

When the Court reconvened Andrews was finishing up with his separation of photos from comments and Hall was still on the witness stand having been warned not to talk to anyone. Elkind approached Andrews and whispered something. Darren Elkind and two others sitting beside him, Matt Adair, Chief Building Official, and Randel Henderson, Deputy Police Chief, evidently concluded during recess they didn’t want Hall to continue testifying; testimony which would prove the city had no legitimate reason for the RAID; testimony that would vindicate ARK and embarrass the city.

Andrews nodded agreement as Elkind informed Judge Green, “The city wants to settle.”

The Judge agreed so the attorneys, Henderson, and Hall went into a back room. Then, according to Hall, Elkind shut the door, saying to Hall, “Look, whether I agree or not, DeLand can’t stay No Kill without you; Second Chance can’t continue operating without ARK. We need to stop wasting taxpayer’s money and end this hearing.”

“Then why did you start this mess in the first place?” Hall demanded.

“Because we had complaints,” Elkind and Henderson simultaneously whined to which Hall retorted, “Oh come on, you’ve known me for years. You think that stuff’s true? That I’d let anyone abuse an animal? You even left a biting dog with us two days before the raid, knowing you were planning a raid!”

“But when we have complaints we have to investigate,” they blathered in unison.

“Anonymous ones? If you had real people with legitimate complaints why didn’t you bring them to Court?” Hall questioned. “And if you really cared why didn’t you talk to me? You knew I’d been working with the city for months to find a place for both of us!”

Elkind continued, “The city wants to work with ARK” to which Hall replied, “I know, that’s why I’ve been meeting with them and you knew it! Chief Ridgeway knew it! Randy, you were at one of the meetings.”

Hall persisted, “You had no right taking our animals. We want them back. They’re healthy, vetted, and ready for adoption. We spent thousands on them.”

“Can’t have ‘um,” declared Elkind.

“Why not? They’re ours!”

“Not gonna happen,” Elkind viciously stood his ground. “You can say anything you want to the press to save face, but you’re not gettin’ the animals back.”

“Save face? I don’t need to save face. I’ve done nothing wrong,” Hall retorted.

“You’re still not gettin’ the animals back.”

Elkind illegally denied ARK its property slapping down the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution. At the raid Hall was coerced into signing away twelve dogs, never signing away ownership of the cats or the remaining 15 dogs.

But Hall realized no matter what she said or did the city wasn’t about to give ARK’s animals back. To do so would admit guilt; would prove the city was vindictive, had wasted taxpayers’ money; and had, in fact, acted illegally. Or so that’s what ARK volunteers thought. Little did they realize just how deep the conspiracy was entrenched in the minds of city staff. They wanted that land!

ARK was beaten. Elkind, Pleus, Arrington, Adair, Realander, Ridgeway, Henderson, and all the others won. They couldn’t prove Daniel Johnson, the registered sex offender, was living at ARK’s Center but they could hurt ARK and Hall through its animals. City Hall won. Animals lost. But Hall couldn’t understand why the city was behaving this way. Her puzzlement would last for months.

“Promise me they’ll be safe and we’ll work with the city, but put it in writing.”

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209 In conversation with Osborne to Dr. Ronald Hall, 11.19.12
Elkind agreed and the four returned to the Courtroom. As Henderson passed Hall he whispered, "Maggi, you've got to understand, I was following orders...." Hall retorted, “Really? So was Eichmann. He arranged transportation!”

Hall returned to the counsel table and waited while the two attorneys spoke with Judge Green. Elkind broke away from the legal gathering, sauntered over to Hall, leaned on the table with one arm, and inquired, a broad grin on his face, “Do I really need to put it in writing? It'll take too long and it's getting late.”

Maggi Hall was about to make the biggest mistake of her life. Just as she had done for a decade working with the city, Hall foolishly trusted another city official, one who seemed to enjoy smearing her name in Court and the newspapers - Darren Elkind. How could she be so naïve?

Elkind and Adair set her up and she didn't see it coming. When several supporters seated behind her heard what she and Elkind discussed and her response to his question, they admitted they cringed in horror. With a dozen witnesses waiting hours to testify for ARK, with hundreds of documents proving ARK’s record of success, Hall foolishly believed Darren Elkind.

“Don’t bother Darren. I trust you,” Hall responded. In her defense Hall admitted she was thinking about the good ARK and the city would do and the money wasted on the RAID. It was time to save lives and stop the retaliation. Hall was ready to forgive the city even though Elkind refused to return ARK’s animals.

Elkind explained to Judge Green what the settlement would entail. From the Court proceedings:

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MR. ELKIND: We’ve reached an agreement whereby they will forfeit the cats to the City.... They want me to read a statement. It’s not going to be part of the court file or any of that, but I’m just writing out a statement that I’m going to state to the press about how it is. And, essentially, it’s going to be that the animals are turned over to the City of DeLand who, in turn, has turned them over to the respective shelters. The facilities that we have given them to—or the City has tried to adhere to its no-kill philosophy—.....

And lastly, that the City and ARK will work together on a go forward—we have not sought in this petition nor in court today to stop the work of ARK, but that we will meet with the ARK representatives to come up with a game plan on a go-forward basis.... I don’t think I need to [read the statement] in open court. She wants it to the press so...

THE COURT: People in court might want to know, too.
MR. ELKIND: Okay. I'll do it. Okay. Is that statement about right?
MR. ANDREWS: I think that’s pretty well what we said.
MR. ELKIND: Okay. And I’m just going to need—once I’m going to announce, if it pleases the Court?
THE COURT: That’s fine.
MR. ELKIND: I’m going to announce that and I’ll just make that statement on the record.
THE COURT: Okay.
MR. ELKIND: Then I’ll just ask the Court to ask Ms. Hall, on behalf of ARK, that she agrees that was the settlement.
THE COURT: Okay. All right.
MR. ELKIND: I’m just going to do it from memory. [Elkind wanted nothing in writing. However as he stood before the Court his promises were placed in writing.]

(End of bench conference.)
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210 Interview with M. Hall, 11.19.12
211 In conversation with Osborne, Claussen, Amy Dendinger, and Dr. Ronald Hall, 11.19.12
THE COURT: Okay. The parties have reached an agreement. The attorney for the City of DeLand is going to lay out the terms of the agreement.
MR. ELKIND: Thank you, Your Honor.
THE COURT: You're welcome.
MR. ELKIND. And thank you for the opportunity to talk. The agreement is that the 135 animals that were seized on November 8th by the City of DeLand will be relinquished to the City of DeLand. The City of DeLand has, as it has for years now, tried to adhere to a no-kill philosophy to the best it can. And in accordance with our attempts to adhere to that philosophy has sent these animals to shelters that we think are appropriate.

The City will be relinquishing the custody of the animals to the facilities that currently have them and we hope that the community and others will step up and, of course, adopt them out. We have not in this petition, as the Court knows, attempted to obtain an injunction or otherwise prevent ARK from continuing its rescue mission and we have not, we have not, sought in court to do that either.

The plan, is, is that ARK representatives as well as representatives from the City of DeLand will get together to come up with a game plan on a go-forward basis. That's not something we need court intervention for.

And that's the agreement. And I've got Deputy Chief Randel Henderson on behalf of the City who has the authority to confirm—actually, I, as City Attorney, have the authority to confirm the settlement on behalf of the City and then--

THE COURT: Okay. Well, Mr. Andrews, is that the understanding of you and your client?
MR. ANDREWS: That is the understanding.
THE COURT: Okay. So you all agree to the statement just made by the City Attorney?
MR. ANDREWS: That's correct.
THE COURT: All right. Then if there's nothing further, court is adjourned.

Hall, trusting Darren Elkind, gave the city what it wanted: Getting her off the witness stand. When television reporters interviewed Hall after the hearing she stated ARK and the animals won because the city would be working with ARK to save lives. Hall wasn't about to talk negatively in the papers about the city because now the city and ARK would truly be partners! After all Darren Elkind promised that in Court standing before Judge Green. He surely wouldn't lie! Or would he?

Little did Hall realize Darren Elkind, Michael Pleus, Dale Arrington, Bill Ridgeway, Randy Henderson, Matt Adair, and their team of conspirators had “different” plans for ARK, for Hall, Dr. Holder, and FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital.

Several people present in the Courtroom heard DeLand Animal Hospital owner Deborah Ulbrich wail to Darren Elkind after the Court adjourned, “What are we going to do with all those cats?”

Not only was the City of DeLand guilty of harassment, conspiracy, lying, and abuse of power, city staff illegally denied ARK and Maggi Hall their constitutional rights under the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

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212 Interview with Dendinger, Billie Jo Harder, 11.19.12
Scene 2 – The Conspiracy Continues the Day After the Hearing

**Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution:** “No person shall be deprived of...property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

**Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution:** “…nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

**November 20** – The *West Volusia Beacon* headlined “DeLand ARK is open, Maggi Hall says, but city says animals can’t stay at shelter.” “…Support from the community has poured in to ARK following the DeLand Police Department’s search and seizure.... ’We had $1,000 in donations...and The Muse Book Shop, Abbey and da Vinci will have fundraisers for us....’” The article continued, “Just hours after an agreement between the City of DeLand and ARK was reached...a new dispute erupted.... Darren Elkind said ARK will no longer be allowed to use the restored historic home...as a residence for rescued animals.... Elkind said the practice of using the property to house animals was something that developed over the years, but was never properly permitted. ’It’s not going to happen anymore,’ Elkind said. ARK’s attorney...disagrees...[the hearing] was not about the zoning of ARK’s property.”

Elkind didn’t care what the law was as the city never intended to keep the promises made in Court. ARK had a legal right to house animals as stated in its city license for 2012:1042 – Animal Kennel. Two dogs were brought to the Center and a sack of kittens left overnight on the front porch. Hateful blogs from a few crazies continued though thankfully countered by many more true and sane statements.

**(UNKNOWN TO ARK:** Janice Spencer (L) and Terri Springer (R) were volunteers fired for refusing to follow protocol or cooperate with others.] They marched into the police station to hand over month old emails from Hall thinking that would help the city indict Hall on animal cruelty charges. Things were busy the day after the city promised to work with ARK. Matt Adair, Chief Building Official, descended on the Center to investigate the presence of animals. Never having been in the building he was there to shut ARK down if animals were ever on site again. Adair’s officious threat was illegal, his intimidation tiresome.

The city’s actions caused PetCo, Best Friends Animal Society, and Audubon to break ties with ARK. Kill shelters in Lake, Putnam, Polk, Orange, and Seminole Counties severed ties and began exterminating animals ARK could have saved; the hands of city staffers and ARK detractors dripping in innocent blood. Halifax Humane Society, knowing the truth, never severed ties.

**November 22** – Matt Adair just couldn’t stay away and stormed in again, first in the morning then that afternoon, determined to get ARK for something – anything – his threatening buffoonery ignored by volunteers.

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213 *West Volusia Beacon, 11.20.12*
214 City of DeLand Business Tax Receipt, 1047 – Animal Kennel, 2012
215 DeLand Police Narrative, Gary Thomas, 11.20.12
216 Interview with Hall, Jennifer Johnson, and Andrews, 11.20.12
217 Email from Miguel Abi-hassan to Hall, 3.18.13
**November 23** - A registered three page letter arrived at ARK from the city citing numerous building code violations, none legitimate, most silly. There were so many misspelled words and grammatical errors ARK volunteers were amazed at the ignorance; the report an attempt to intimidate.

*(UNKNOWN TO ARK:)* Erin Gray, the Val-U-Vet employee, in her ten page vindictive and false diatribe listed against ARK, Hall, Dr. Holder, and FloridaWild made observations regarding code violations. So not only was the multi-talented Gray used to “evaluate” animals, she was called in as a building inspector.\(^{218}\)

No one returned to re-inspect the “serious violations.” Out of curiosity Hall asked a retired fireman to check the building. He noted a “dangerous” complaint was “exposed wiring” leading to a dead phone system. The fireman came away laughing, “You gotta’ be kidding me. Are these people vicious or just plain stupid?”\(^{219}\)

**November 25** - The city sent Jennifer Johnson to the street since ARK “overnight” was required to install a sprinkler system if people were to reside on site; never mind the building was zoned commercial not residential and never mind the city had known for two years ARK allowed people to live there. The city knew ARK couldn’t afford the ten thousand dollars though the city hadn’t a problem with people living there when they were taking in the city’s abandoned animals.\(^{220}\)

City officials begin negotiating with Southeast Volusia Animal Shelter, a killing shelter, to take abandoned animals; after all ARK was shut down – illegally – by the city that promised before Judge Green it was going to work with ARK.\(^{221}\)

Hall sent an email to animal rescue groups and copied it to the city denigrating the city for its actions against ARK and for breaking the promise in court to work together.

*(UNKNOWN TO ARK:)* Mean-spirited Elkind emailed Ridgeway the following regarding Hall’s letter:

> She only makes herself look crazier when she sends this stuff out. Remember that she was in the paper prior to the hearing stating that she would get all of the animals back.\(^{222}\)

**November 28** – *(UNKNOWN TO ARK:)* Elkind continued his maliciousness against ARK and Hall, now adding FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital to his agenda. Was this further evidence Elkind was building his plan to confiscate the entire valuable corner block owned by ARK and the Hall Family? He emailed Pleus, Arrington, Adair, Ridgeway, Henderson, and Holmes:

> There are two things that I believe we need to do with regard to the ARK location.... 1- revoke the BTR. The zoning does not allow an animal kennel at that location. I need to consider the process for this and will advise shortly. 2 – we need to have the city commission revoke the special exception which was issued to FloridaWild, most notably because FloridaWild is not the property owner. Please let me know if there are any concerns or objections to undertaking these two tasks.\(^{223}\)

*(Evidently there were no concerns or objections as those copied didn’t reply thus proving the conspiracy incorporated all these “officials.”)* Elkind wasn’t as savvy as he thought though; he didn’t

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\(^{218}\) Fire report from City of DeLand Fire Department, 11.27.12

\(^{219}\) Reported by Miller to Hall, 11.24.12

\(^{220}\) “For one woman, ARK is a welcome home,” *West Volusia Beacon*, 11.26.12

\(^{221}\) Email from Henderson to Pleus and Elkind, 11.27.12

\(^{222}\) Email from Hall to City Hall and emails from Elkind to Ridgeway copied to Batten and McWhorter, 11.26.12

\(^{223}\) Email to city staff from Elkind, 11.28.12
know FloridaWild had a lease agreement with ARK and used the back building for boarding. Had he tried that maneuver he would have been embarrassed in court.\textsuperscript{224}

Hall notified the \textit{West Volusia Beacon} that the city was harassing ARK. (\textsc{Unknown to ARK}: A reporter emailed a record request for the fire inspector’s report and reports from Matt Adair’s three surprise visits after the hearing.

\textbf{Elkind to Reporter}: Matt advised her that they could not be taking in the animals and that he would be back the following day to do a follow up inspection.... As for harassment, I have learned over the years...you enforce the law against a person...that person...will more often than not feel as though they’re being harassed.)\textsuperscript{225}

As noted earlier, there were no laws prohibiting ARK from bringing animals into the building. Nothing had changed in two years when the city continued to drop off animals. And again let the reader be reminded that the settlement agreement between the city and Hall was that the city would work with ARK, not against it.

\textbf{November 29} – Attorney Andrews requested through the county court that the city return the seized medicines and all medical papers.\textsuperscript{226} Of course the City of DeLand never did.

\textbf{November 30} – ARK sent a notice of a holiday adoption event for confiscated animals offering to pay $50 to those who’d adopt an ARK cat or dog stolen by DeLand.

(\textsc{Unknown to ARK}: The email was snagged by city officials and sent to the various departments with a comment by Sergeant McWhorter, “Scan a copy into the report and place a copy in the red book as well.”)\textsuperscript{227}

(\textsc{Unknown to ARK}: A ten page affidavit for the arrest of Maggi Hall was compiled by Officer Juan Millan stating “unnecessary and intentional suffering by neglect, starvation and failure to provide water and medical attention resulting in animal deaths.”)\textsuperscript{228} Every statement Millan wrote was a lie; he had no proof.

(\textsc{Unknown to ARK}: The affidavit didn’t make it to the judge until March 13, 2013; four months after the city “settled” with ARK and declared the two groups would work together.)\textsuperscript{229}

\textbf{December 3} – A former police detective requested Assistant Manager Arrington investigate claims that since DeLand Animal Hospital vet Deborah Ulbrich said 4x4 cat kennels were mandatory and ARK supposedly didn’t have them, she wanted photographs proving the hospital had what it claimed was legal housing. Arrington ignored the taxpayer’s request.

(\textsc{Unknown to ARK}: Arrington forwarded the letter to Sergeant McWhorter who sent to Officer Millin with the order to “log this in our book and into the report system.”)\textsuperscript{230}

\textbf{December 5} – (\textsc{Unknown to ARK}: Officer Daniel Dekoeyer was asked by someone in the police department to make a statement countering Hall’s claim to have been coerced into signing away the rights of 12 dogs. He wrote, “...I observed Maggi Hall willingly signing an animal surrender form...provided...”\textsuperscript{231} Michelle Realander told McWhorter who emailed Ridgeway, Henderson, and Batten that “Michelle...vehemently denied Mrs. Hall’s accusation.”)\textsuperscript{232} Of course she did!!

ARK was furious to learn one of its dogs “rescued by the City of DeLand” and sent to the Seminole County Animal Shelter was killed. An email went out from Hall blasting the city and the kill shelter. A

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\textsuperscript{224} Lease agreement between ARK and FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital, 1.1.09  
\textsuperscript{225} Emails between Elkind and Jen Horton, reporter, 11.28.12  
\textsuperscript{226} In the county court of the 7\textsuperscript{th} Judicial Circuit, Volusia Co, FL, 11.29.12  
\textsuperscript{227} Email sent to city by ARK, 11.30.12  
\textsuperscript{228} 7\textsuperscript{th} Judicial Circuit 707 Charging Affidavit-Volusia, 11.30.12  
\textsuperscript{229} Ibid.  
\textsuperscript{230} Letter from Billie Jo Harder to Arrington who forwarded to Batten, 12.3.12  
\textsuperscript{231} Email from Dekoeyer to McWhorter who forwarded to Millan, 12.5.12  
\textsuperscript{232} Emails between McWhorter, Ridgeway, Batten, and Henderson, 12.5.12
\end{flushright}
dozen letters of support came in with complaints going to the city. The dog that was executed was not an aggressive dog; he was a frightened dog. Of course Seminole claimed the opposite.\textsuperscript{233}

\textbf{(UNKNOWN TO ARK):} Manager Pleus emailed Chief Ridgeway, “Have you found out what happened to that dog?” Deputy Chief Henderson blathered the excuse that he “chose only shelters that do not use euthanasia for population control.”\textsuperscript{234}

\textbf{(UNKNOWN TO ARK):} A month after Elkind promised the city would work with ARK, city officials earnestly initiated a secret plot to prove Maggi Hall abused animals. Darren Elkind began extensive communication with Amy Walker, state’s attorney, copying the messages to Pleus, Arrington, Ridgeway, Adair, McWhorter, and Millan:

\textbf{Walker to Elkind:} Tell them to proceed as planned [interviews with witnesses].

\textbf{Ridgeway to McWhorter:} Coordinate with Darren on this.

\textbf{Elkind to Walker:} I spoke with the Police chief this morning following my conversation with you yesterday. He advised me that his officers had already been tasked to conduct the additional interviews that you had requested. We had briefly discussed your investigators doing this, so I wanted to make sure it was ok for the City’s officers to continue with this. Please let me know. Sorry for any confusion I may have caused – I’ll stay out of your way from now on!

\textbf{Walker to Millan:} Is your goal to obtain an arrest warrant or for us just to review for possible charges?

\textbf{Millan to Walker:} We would like for you to review for charges.

\textbf{Walker to Millan:} Ok, I currently have a message into the city attorney to find out what, if any, agreements were made at the forfeiture hearing regarding prosecution. I would also like to know what the city’s intension [sic] is regarding the future operation of this place, I was also told that in the past, law enforcement has been told to deliver stray animals there. Do you know if there is any truth to that?

If we were to file any charges, I would like a few more interviews done on the people who lived, volunteered there regarding Ms. Hall’s daily interactions with the staff and animals.

One last question, do you know if the veterinarian’s office behind ARK is connected to it at all? There is something floating around that the vet there is Ms. Hall’s daughter???????????

\textbf{Millan to McWhorter:} FYI.)\textsuperscript{235}

\textbf{December 6 -} Detective Sanchez called ARK’s attorney, Tanner Andrews, to inform him the ever-present Karen Clark was at it again. Clark told her friend Gary Thomas, Dog Catcher, that Daniel Johnson, the “registered sex offender,” was still “living” at the Center.\textsuperscript{236} Amazing as by that time no one was living there.

\textbf{(UNKNOWN TO ARK):} Carolyn, with no last name, emailed Sergeant McWhorter about a Facebook posting Hall was supposed to have made. [Hall never used Facebook though many ARK volunteers did.] McWhorter told Millan to “scan this into the report system and place a copy in the book....”)\textsuperscript{237}

\textbf{(UNKNOWN TO ARK):} Elkind continued communication with Amy Walker, state’s attorney, copying the messages to Pleus, Arrington, Ridgeway, Henderson, Adair, McWhorter, and Millan.

\textsuperscript{233} Email from Hall to City Hall, 12.5.12
\textsuperscript{234} Emails between Ridgeway, Henderson, and Pleus, 12.5.12
\textsuperscript{235} Emails between Walker, Elkind, Ridgeway, Millan, and McWhorter 12.5.12
\textsuperscript{236} Email to Hall from Andrews, 12.6.12
\textsuperscript{237} Email from Carolyn to McWhorter, 12.5.12
Walker to Elkind: Can you please fax or email me a copy of Judge Green’s final order? Also is there a reason you did not ask the Judge to enjoin Ms. Hall from possessing animals in the future pursuant to 828.073(4)(c) or was that part of the agreement you reached.

Elkind to Walker: We have a hearing scheduled on a hearing for entry of the final order. We will email you the date tomorrow in case that is important for you. I will call you tomorrow to explain the answer to your other question. It was NOT part of the agreement however, other than I did announce that we had not sought that in the petition.)

The News-Journal declared, “DeLand shelter no longer taking in animals.” “As part of that agreement, City Attorney Darren Elkind said ARK would no longer be allowed to house animals without requesting a special zoning exception. Maggi Hall, the group’s president, disagreed, and the shelter resumed taking in animals.”

As noted earlier in the court proceedings there was no mention ARK had to apply for a special zoning exception before it could rescue more animals. The article quoted Manager Pleus as saying the recent inspections were routine, “Somebody told us they were holding animals. We went down there and noticed they had a couple of dogs....”

Hall hired Erin Thompson after Thompson approached her saying she’d like to assist, a mistake Hall would soon regret. Thompson was an attorney with DeLand’s oldest law firm, Landis, Graham, and French. Was she deeply entrenched with the good old boy connection? Thompson and Andrews communicated.

Thompson: Tanner, I find absolutely nothing to suggest that ARK is currently prohibited from having animals at its primary business location.

Andrews: Neither do I. As I see it, we are currently operating under a special exception which allows for boarding of animals at this location. There is a potential problem. It appears from the July reports that the status of the outside boarding of dogs is unclear. At that time they deemed it overlookable as there was anticipation that a modified special exception would be applied for. While the City would have a hard time enforcing a bar on outside boarding of dogs, it is not clear that it is unenforceable.

Thompson: NOTHING. So could you please demand something in writing from a code no one appears to be willing to go out on a limb and say that the operation is barred. I am sure that, if I push hard enough, I can find someone to give me a writing and force me to litigate over it. That looks to me to be stirring up litigation, multiplying controversies, contrary to the ethics rules.

Until they offer something in writing, I have to assume that the special exception works and that the situation is as described in the July inspection reports and the October e-mails. They have surely had plenty of opportunity to deliver a writing. The lack of such is fairly convincing.

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Communication continued between Elkind, Amy Walker, state’s attorney, Pleus, Arrington, Ridgeway, Henderson, Adair, McWhorter, and Millan.

Walker to Millan: When you executed the search warrant, did you guys also collect any of the records that they were keeping on the animals regarding their arrival date, how they came to the shelter or any medical treatment they received while they were there? Thanks again for dropping off your red binder yesterday.

238 Emails between Walker and Elkind, 12.6.12
240 Emails between Andrews and Thompson, 12.6.12
**Millan to Walker:** [Millan’s statements are false regarding records.] During the search warrant, we collected a number of records that did not correspond with the animals that were being housed. The majority of the animals did not have any tags that would help in identifying them and the crates were not numbered to match that on the records. Also most of the records showed to have last been documents [sic] on September 2012, two months prior to the execution of the search warrant.

We conducted an interview on two of the volunteers for ARC [sic] Wednesday November 5, 2012 at approximately 1600 hours in an attempt on furthering the investigation. The volunteers provided good information regarding ARC [sic] but refused to go on record due to retaliation concerns.

We would like to have Dr. Grey [sic] ACO Realander and officers to meet with you to go over some of the details in this case.

**Elkind to Walker:** [Elkind’s remarks refute Millan] I have all of the records that they produced for the hearing. Many of these relate to how the animals got there and what, if any, treatment they received. I will be happy to forward them to you. Also, there are several well spoken individuals who volunteered at ARK that were prepared to testify at the hearing if I needed them, although they were literally concerned about retaliation. I would be happy to reach out to them and ask if they would be willing to give a statement if you think it is necessary. [Volunteers fired for incompetency and lack of cooperation: Julie Beard, Joe Gilmartin, Janice Spencer, Terri Springer.]

**Walker to Elkind:** Those records are crucial in proving a charge that the animals’ conditions are as a result of their lack of care during their time at ARK, as opposed to the animals being brought into the shelter in that condition. We are going to have to prove this animal by animal, so I would appreciate it. [Emphasis added]

**Elkind to Walker:** I can lay that our [sic] for you pretty well as I had prepared to do that for my hearing as well.)

The photo (L) shows Dog Catcher Michelle Realander theatrically posing with a flashlight for a photo op for the News-Journal. The sun was shining brightly the day of the raid and the Center had adequate lighting. But more importantly note the cat has an id tag around its neck; all cats did. Dogs wore collars with a taped ID around the collar numbered to coincide with the animal’s medical chart on the kitchen wall. For obvious reasons the photo never made it into court. All animals were identified yet city officials and Darren Elkind claimed otherwise.

December 7 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Carolyn emailed Sergeant McWhorter again regarding Hall.

Word got out that Hall was going to “send in under cover” volunteers to check on the animals. City staff emailed each other about the possibility and thought they should “warn” the shelters, evidently worried at what volunteers might find.

The police wrote a report regarding ARK’s adopt day at the Center and noted “there were dogs at this location. I arrived on scene and observed several dogs in the back of a dark colored SUV....” The report goes on to describe minute details of the adoption event.

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243 Email from Carolyn to McWhorter, 12.7.12
244 Emails between McWhorter, Henderson, Elkind, and Batten, 12.7.12
245 DeLand Police Department incident report, Bruce Dolphin, 12.8.12
December 12 – Three dogs were moved from the West Volusia Humane Society to “Pet Rescue by Judy” in Sanford. They called ARK for medical records but were told the city confiscated them. City officials cared so little about the dogs they not only did not take the medical reports with them, Gary Thomas, dog catcher, produced an unprofessional document (L) to deliver with the dogs.  

Attorney Andrews wrote Hall, “Darren has offered no reason for not returning either meds or records. I suspect therefore that this is either arbitrary or intended to injure the animals but can offer no evidence as to which may be the base. Certainly the entire lack of effort to unite critters and records shows a lack of concern for the animals. The refusal to return records to a group which presumably would do the work for the city suggests outright hostility toward the animals. However, I know enough of government to figure laziness on their part is at least as likely as hostility.”  

Hall wrote Carol Coleman, staff employee at the Seminole County kill shelter, telling her ARK would adopt its dogs and didn’t want any more killed. Hall also wrote since the city confiscated the medical records she’d need to call Michelle Realander; Coleman didn’t respond which was no surprise to ARK; the shelter was less than professional and caring. ARK volunteers visited the kill shelter and rescued K9, an ARK dog, paying the $10 fee. The shelter had no idea who the adopter was and didn’t ask for references. That’s how unprofessional the place is. Kasey Benson freed K9 who was then adopted (L).

December 13 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: A mean-spirited email between Elkind, Pleus, and Ridgeway revealed the contempt they had for Hall, ARK, and its animals.  

Elkind to Staff: You have to let me do the following–I want to take a still picture of this dog in the cage standing in its own urine, and put it next to this picture as the dog is today. Below it will be a note showing how the city saved this dog and how well it is now doing. Since I don’t charge to read her crazy emails, I won’t charge for this of course.  

Ridgeway to Staff: Don’t disseminate further but I thought it was clever.”  

December 17 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Ridgeway emailed Pleus, “FYI, Darren called me this past Saturday to say they were there [ARK’s Center] with animals on property again.”  

December 19 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Sergeant McWhorter noted HIGH IMPORTANCE at 1:08pm when emailing Adair, Realander, Henderson, Batten, Elkind, and Ridgeway: In addition to yesterday’s complaint from “paddiepoochie” I received a voice mail complaint from Lisa Banks complaining that ARK is continuing to operate in violation of her agreement. I spoke

246 Interview with Hall, 11.8.12  
247 Email from Andrews to Hall, 12.12.12  
249 Email from Elkind to city staff and Ridgeway’s reply, 12.13.12  
250 Email from Ridgeway to Pleus, 12.17.12
with Mrs. Banks and thanked her for her concern in the matter and assured her it would be looked into. She can be reached at 407.694.3830. I have the message saved, if you require a copy let me know and I will get it to you.\footnote{Email from McWhorter to Adair, Realander, Henderson, Batten, Elkind, and Ridgeway, 12.19.12} [Banks and “paddiepoochie” had no connection to ARK.] 

\textbf{Sergeant McWhorter noted HIGH IMPORTANCE at 1:22pm emailing Adair, Realander, Henderson, Batten, Elkind, and Ridgeway:} I just spoke with Michelle, who reported Dale told her and Matt to “Wait until we see what happens with the charges at the State Attorney’s office before we do anything.”

I have three documented complaints against ARK operating in violation of her agreement with the City. \footnote{Ibid.} [There was NEVER AN AGREEMENT] If we fail to act like we did recently, we are going to be behind the ball again and unnecessarily I might add. Mrs. Banks expressed frustration over the perception of the City not taking immediate action against ARK. I respectfully suggest we treat ARK like anybody else and follow through with investigating any and all complaints.

Our actions are not only being carefully monitored by ARK but our citizens as well, Failure to follow through and investigate complaints lodged by citizens against ARK could send the wrong message and damage hard earned public support.)\footnote{Letter from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to Daniel Johnson, 12.21.12}

\textbf{December 21} - Daniel Johnson won his legal battle. “...FDLE has determined that you do not meet the requirement to register in Florida as a sexual offender....” His name was removed from Florida’s Sex Offender List. Fear of retaliation from the City of DeLand caused Johnson not to pursue a lawsuit against the city for discrimination and false arrest. \textbf{Intimidation works in DeLand Florida.} The Johnsons had already fled town.\footnote{Letter from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to Daniel Johnson, 12.21.12}

\textbf{December 27} – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: More emails flew between attorneys Elkind and Walker.}

\textbf{Walker to Elkind:} It was my understanding you were going to have the animal records matched up to the animals so we could determine when each animal arrived at the shelter, what condition they were in when they arrived, and what if any vet treatment they received while they were there. \footnote{Email from McWhorter to Adair, Realander, Henderson, Batten, Elkind, and Ridgeway, 12.19.12} [Emphasis added] Also, you had said you would get sworn statements from Dr. McPhail and Dr. Ulbrecht (not sure if their names are spelled correctly), regarding the condition of the animals they received and treated. We are also in need of sworn statements from the following people that were referenced in the materials provided by DeLand Police Department: Julie Beard, Terri Springer, and Janice Spencer. We are interested in both their knowledge of the condition of the facility and animals and the degree that Maggi Hall’s daily involvement in the care of the facility and animals.

Also, we have a sworn statement from Janice [sic, Jo] Gilmartin dated November 9. It says at the end that she would be happy to provide more details. If you could have someone get additional information from her in the form of a sworn statement regarding how often she was there and what her knowledge is of Maggi Hall’s daily involvement, that would be helpful.

Our office will set up an interview with Jennifer Johnson. Most likely we will do this after we get copies of the animal records and a copy of her diary.

\textbf{Elkind to Walker:} I will give you a call regarding the records. I have completed that review and will share with you my findings. On all of the other, I can confirm that the DeLand police department will get those statements for you. Regarding Jennifer Johnson’s diary, if you do not have that, please let me know and I will get a copy over to you asap.
Thanks for all of your time and effort on this.  
**Walker to Elkind:** I don’t have a copy of her diary, I would need that.  
**Elkind to Walker:** I’ll drop a copy in the mail to you, can you provide me your mailing address please?\(^{254}\)

ARK attorney Erin Thompson received a detailed letter from Darren Elkind attempting to justify the special zoning exception for the indoor boarding of animals.

...since Florida Wild [sic] no longer owns the property, I have recommended that the City go through the formality of actually rescinding the special exception. As your client is aware, the property cannot currently be used to operate a kennel, or for any other purpose which involves having animals on site. ARK did open up for operation immediately following the hearing in November, but the City’s code enforcement department immediately notified them of the violation and they got rid of the two dogs....

With the exception of entry of a final order in the animal seizure case, and disposition of a not very well taken (in my opinion) motion filed by the former attorney for ARK, there is no pending litigation....\(^{255}\)

No pending litigation Elkind wrote yet the city anxiously attempted to get the goods on Hall. The letter goes on to complain about ARK holding adoption events on site. Once again Elkind showed no respect for truth.

Thompson then met with Elkind and was swayed by the “evidence” he “supposedly” had against Hall though no proof was given Thompson. Hall fired Thompson after her visit with Elkind as it appeared Elkind won her over. Such is life in a small town. Thompson’s cost for doing nothing - $2,000.\(^{256}\)

### Scene 3 – 2013: A New Year Begins - The Witch Hunt Intensifies

*“Repetition does not transform a lie into a truth.”* – Franklin D. Roosevelt

**January 4** – Tanner Andrews emailed Hall regarding the taking of private property and the protection under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. He discussed that the city and state failed to properly and legally bring charges in a timely fashion, stating the corporation had effectively been taken into custody.

Andrews wanted the state to charge Hall with animal cruelty and Hall agreed. As Andrews pointed out: “The worse problem is that the trial would be a huge humiliation for the City because ARK would surely call up [a] Relander, to explain what changed [b] Sanchez, to explain about her dishonest statements [c] Henderson, to show that they knew that raid was improper [d] the vets, to show that City provided lesser standard of care than ARK [e] Thomas, to show nepotistic assignment of critters to West Volusia Humane [f] Elkind for two or three kinds of impeachment.

There is also the problem of spoliation of evidence. The critters are the best evidence, and they were turned over and placed in the state’s custody, so obviously the state would be charged with their maintenance until trial. [Emphasis added]
I cannot imagine anyone being crazy enough to bring criminal charges on the current set of facts. Such a case would be pure circus. Sure, I’d enjoy it, but we do not multiply litigation in order to amuse lawyers.” [Emphasis added]

January 10 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: DeLand Animal Hospital vets, Deborah Ulbrich and Thomas MacPhail, wrote a contumetable two page unproven account against ARK, the condition of the animals they received, then went off on a tirade of lies against Hall, her daughter, Dr. Erin Holder, and FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital. They signed their diatribe under oath and in the presence of Officer T. Petrella.) Lying under oath is a felony.

Then they had the gall to post on ARK’s Facebook page that “We donated our veterinary services, care, boarding and even waived the adoption fee. It was our way of helping these animals. It is our sincere hope that you understand that there was no hidden agenda – we simply wanted to help. We are not taking sides.” More lies. As FDR said, “Repetition does not transform a lie into a truth.” Deborah Ulbrich and Thomas MacPhail received $4,140.00 from DeLand’s taxpayers for their “donation of 100% for their generous help;” paid within a week of the raid. They wasted no time in sending a bill to the city for their “free” services.

January 17 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: The case against ARK was closed. ORDERED and ADJUDGED that the animals which were seized by the Petitioner...are remanded to the custody of the City of DeLand to be disposed of as the City sees fit, and the Animal Rescue Konsortium, Inc. shall have no further interest in or to said animals.”)

The ORDER wasn’t what was agreed upon nor read in open Court and ARK wasn’t sent a copy of the order. Judge Green also decided she didn’t have jurisdiction to give ARK’s medicines and medical paperwork back.

January 18 – ARK announced an adoption event Saturday. (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Jo Gilmartin received the announcement and refusing to give up, forwarded it to the police.)

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257 Email to Hall from Andrews, 1.4.13
258 “…We had not anticipated for [sic] the personal attacks that would ensue [sic] as a result of our testimonies and act of goodwill to take care of these animals. Upon exiting the courtroom, Dr. Erin Holder verbally attacked Dr. Deborah Ulbrich. Dr. Ulbrich did not engage in a conversation with her and walked away.

Since then, the attacks have escalated. We have been repeatedly harassed by the President of ARK, Maggi Hall, and her daughter Dr. Erin Holder, owner of Florida Wild Veterinary Hospital. We have attached some of the e-mails from Maggi Hall that were sent out to hundreds of people...implicated Dr. MacPhail in a conspiracy to take over the Deland TNR program. We have also attached a copy of the certified letter mailed to us by Dr. Erin Holder. In the letter, Dr. Holder admits that she is still closely involved with ARK and that she was in the process of ‘culling’ the animals. In the veterinary medicine the definition of culling is to reduce the size of a herd or flock by killing a proportion of its members. ARK claims to be a non-kill shelter. [Culling is NOT in Dr. Holder’s letter, another lie by the vets.]

In addition to the mass e-mails, Facebook postings, Internet blogs, Newspaper comments etc., many of our clients, friends and staff have been approached by Dr. Holder, Maggi Hall and ARK volunteers on how they plan on ruining our reputation and ‘putting an end to DeLand Animal Hospital’. Maggi Hall continues her name calling, referring to Dr. Ulbrich as Deb-Do-Nothing at DeLand Animal Hospital, a liar, murderer and part of the City of DeLand’s Mafia. Her rantings are frightening and stressful to our family and business.” Letter from MacPhail and Ulbrich to the City of DeLand, sworn to T. Petrella, 1.10.13
259 DeLand Animal Hospital posting on ARK’s Facebook page, 1.5.13
260 List of payments for confiscated animals, City of DeLand, 11.16.12
261 Order Pursuant to Florida Statue 828.073, In the County Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Case No. 2012 23623 CONS, Judge Shirley Green, 1.17.13
262 Order Denying Respondent’s Motion for Release of Seized Material, In the County Court, Seventh Judicial Circuit, Case No. 2012 23623 CONS, Judge Shirley Green, 1.17.13
263 Email from Gilmartin to police, 1.18.13
January 22 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Amy Walker, state’s attorney, was still trying after almost two months to get copies of ARK’s animal records.

**Walker to Elkind:** Have you guys made any progress on matching up the animal records seized from ARK with any particular animal?)

January 23 – A woman called ARK to report Gary Thomas, dog catcher, told her if the dog she found didn’t have an owner “it would be ‘put down.’” ARK emailed DeLand officials that Thomas’ statement had better not be true.

January 24 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: This was a busy day for espionage by the city and its spies. Refusing to give up, Janice Spencer, a fired volunteer wrote a three page narrative of the awful things volunteers and Hall had done.

Julie Beard (L), former Executive Director encouraged to resign for her horrific verbal abuse of volunteers, reared her head to bite ARK. In her email she wrote, “Good evening Officer Petrella. I appreciate you stopping by today to follow up on the statement for the Ark case. After great consideration, I am going to abstain from submitting a formal statement.... [I] fear for the safety of my animals... [Emphasis added]... there were some shady characters around Ark and they are well aware of my residence [No one knew where she lived]. I firmly believe there are several people available who can substantiate the same findings that I would have presented. My personal apologies but the risk is too great....”

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: Elkind emailed Amy Walker, state’s attorney, regarding Beard. “I do not know Ms. Beard personally, she is regarded within the community as being a rational, intelligent and honest person...."

Elkind to Walker: ...As it turns out, they really weren’t keeping records like they should have. In fact, one of the primary witnesses stated that there was no record keeping and that she had tried to institute some basic form of record keeping. I think it was after she left that it really went down hill. In fact, it was reported to me that these witnesses will say that the conditions were deplorable, and that animals would come in healthy and then get sick.

I do have records that show particular animals came in healthy and then got sick. However, we have no way of specifically proving that these animals were any of the really disgusting looking ones we can see on the video. [Emphasis added. Evidently Elkind had another video Hall and ARK’s attorney never saw; there were no “disgusting” animals at ARK or in any photos or videos taken. Elkind had trouble telling the truth.]

This is, as I understand it, a result of the lack of record keeping that would normally be done in a properly run facility. I realize that this may make the difference between misdemeanor and felony charges as you explained the law, but I went through it and the records are just so bad or non-existent that there is no way to even identify particular cats by name.)

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264 Email from Walker to Elkind, 1.22.13
265 Email from Hall to city staff, 1.23.13
266 Janice E Spencer’s Statement Regarding ARK sworn to under oath to Petrella, 1.24.13
267 Email from Beard to Petrella, 1.23.13
268 Email from Elkind to Walker, 1.23.13
269 Email from Elkind to Walker, 1.24.13
Contrary to Elkind’s email, ARK kept exceptional records, yet another Elkind lie. Photos (L) reveal pegs for clipboards for dogs and schedule boards for treatment; cat clipboards in baskets at the entrance to their rooms or hanging on their cages. ARK had a file for every animal that came through the door, the type of treatment needed, a surrender form signed by owners, location where animals were found, and animals’ condition on entry.

Medical paperwork was confiscated by city officials, never making it into Court. But ARK’s veterinarians made copies indicating ARK spent over $50,000 the year of the raid. Another reason the city wanted Hall off the witness stand – fast. ARK was doing what was required by the state. All ARK received back from the confiscation were dozens of empty clipboards.

After adoption each animal had a manila folder with a copy of all paperwork including medical reports, and surrender and adoption forms. These too were seized by the city and never returned.

Since the city seized in-house medical, surrender, and adopt records it was convenient to say ARK kept no records. Forget the fact that ARK’s attorney, Tanner Andrews, brought a huge stack of papers with him to the hearing to refute Elkind’s claim. But again the truth didn’t matter to Elkind.

**February 4** – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Jo Gilmartin was at it again sending to the police seven pages of “proof” as she continued to scramble to prove Hall of animal abuse.)

**February 11** – ARK’s attorney, Tanner Andrews, reported to Hall that Jennifer Johnson, former ARK Center tenant, was questioned by the state’s attorney. Andrews noted, “It is you and ARK [the city wants]. I may have mentioned before that they would have to be crazy to go to trial on their set of facts....

   *You think the first case was a circus? Wait for the jury trial in the criminal proceedings if they are enthusiastic enough to bring it.* [Emphasis added]

Hall and Andrews were hoping the city would move on an indictment; Andrews mentioned “circus” and truly it would have been, but then the truth would finally come out in Court and Hall would not “settle” this time.

(UNKNOWN TO ARK: The state’s attorney still attempted to get copies of the confiscated reports,

Walker to Elkind: It appears that inspection reports for October and November 2012 were placed into evidence. The only time I have relating to an October inspection is some emails from the code enforcement officers that appear to have been generated in response to a complaint made by Ms. Hall regarding the inspection. I don’t have any inspection report for November. Can you please provide me these reports as well as documentation of whatever Ms. Hall reported as a result of the October inspection.

Elkind to Walker: I’ll get those for you.)

The “reports” in question were ARK’s Building and Pet Inspection Weekly Reports. But again, those reports didn’t show up in Court because they would prove ARK kept excellent records.

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270 Photographs by Claussen, 11.9.12
271 Emails from Gilmartin to police, 2.4.13
272 Email from Andrews to Hall, 2.11.13
273 Emails between Walker and Elkind, 2.11.13
274 ARK Building and Pet Weekly Checklist, October 2012, November 2012
February 13 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Emails went back and forth between Elkind and Walker as they talked in circles. There were no reports because Elkind didn’t want to supply Walker with the confiscated medical record reports. It would prove ARK was, in fact, taking care of the animals and that there were no written reports to Hall or ARK volunteers about animal care and condition of the building from the city. In other words, Walker was attempting to get “proof” of neglect and abuse. None was forthcoming from Elkind because he had no proof of neglect and abuse.

Elkind to Walker: Attached are the October and November inspection reports.... There weren’t many inspections. I did notice, however, that the person signing/initialing the inspections was Maggi Hall. The reports appear to be the only documentation regarding the results of the inspections.

Walker to Elkind: When code enforcement went to ARK on Oct 24 to conduct an inspection, did they generate any sort of report?

Elkind to Walker: There are two emails which are really memos regarding the inspections from the two code inspectors who did the inspection 10/24/12. I am obtaining those for you. I should have them for you tomorrow, but certainly by the end of the week.

Walker to Elkind: ...I was wondering if it was their protocol to generate any sort of report or document their findings when they do any sort of inspection. Also, it seems from the tenor of the emails that they were done in response to some complaint that Ms. Hall had about the way they were done or something that may have happened during the inspection. If my guess is correct, do you have any documentation regarding Ms. Hall’s complaint. Was it written?

Elkind to Walker: Ms. Hall complains about everything, but I did not glean from the emails that they were in response to any complaint by her. [Walker was alluding to written complaints by Hall against the city for harassment October 24. Her complaints unnerved city officials as revealed in an earlier entry.]

Walker to Elkind: Please see Mark Ellison’s email dated Oct 24, 2013 at 3:03pm to Matt Adair. It appears clear to me that Ms. Hall complained about something to someone.

Elkind to Walker: The email you have from Michelle Realander is simply the body of her notes put into an email, verbatim. No formal report is generated unless the case is taken to the code enforcement special magistrate. Obviously given the exigent circumstances in this case, we rescued the animals rather than going to special magistrate to impose a lien.)

There it is in black and white, written by City Attorney Darren Elkind: “…we rescued the animals rather than going to special magistrate…” yet dog catcher Michelle Realander wrote ARK’s animals didn’t need to be confiscated.

February 14 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: McWhorter located Hall’s email accusing the city of harassment.

McWhorter to Adair, Elkind, Ridgeway, Henderson, Petrella: T.J., Check to see if this e-mail thread is in our file and then take a copy of this to Amy first thing please.

Adair to McWhorter, Elkind, Ridgeway, Henderson, Petrella: Thank you Greg.)

February 27 – An email from Hall went out to ARK volunteers: “Two small dogs thrown over the 6 ft fence at ARK. One has his little shirt on, about 10 weeks old. Both at FloridaWild. Please contact Kim Eastin asap. (UNKNOWN TO ARK: The email landed with Manager Pleus and Chief Ridgeway. Ridgeway noted to an underling to file it away in the “binder” for “evidence.” [This relaying of information

275 Emails between Elkind and Walker, 2.13.13
276 Emails between McWhorter, Adair, Elkind, Ridgeway, Henderson, and Petrella, 2.14.13
was done by Karen Clark of We Help Animals. She surely didn’t want to “help animals” considering the damage she’d done and continued to attempt; her hatred stunning.”

**March 18 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK):** Knowing there was no evidence to indict Hall, Pleus, Arrington, Adair, and Ridgeway refused to give up, consumed with the land grab. It angered them ARK held adoption events at its Center.

**Pleus to Arrington, Adair, Ridgeway, Elkind:** Dale, Please have meeting with Darren and Bill on weekend adoptions at ARK when you return. We need to decide what we are going to do there.

**Arrington to Pleus, Adair, Ridgeway, Elkind:** I have talked to Bill, Matt, Darren about this. We do not believe that this is occurring anymore, therefore there is no action to be taken. We will monitor progress and activities, but have not received any recent complaints.

**Elkind to Arrington, Pleus, Adair, Ridgeway:** To be clear, I have no idea whether it is happening or not (because I am usually working on some assignment for Dale on Saturdays), but I assumed when we spoke that they were still doing it.

**Pleus to Elkind, Arrington, Adair, Ridgeway:** Should we verify that it is not?

**Elkind to Pleus, Arrington, Adair, Ridgeway:** Yes, I think you should have to drive by at least twice every Saturday for the next month!

**Adair to Elkind, Pleus, Arrington, Ridgeway:** Who?

**Elkind to Adair, Pleus, Arrington, Ridgeway:** The person who asked the question – obviously.

**Arrington to Elkind, Adair, Pleus, Ridgeway, Mike Holmes:** I spoke to Charles Paiva [city commissioner] who is the person who asked Michael about this. Charles indicated that his wife saw an adoption event being held on the front porch and parking lot either this past weekend, or the weekend before that; and he knows that they have had at least one other dog adoption event a while ago. He feels like they are taunting us by flaunting their bad behavior. [Emphasis added. Bad behavior? Paiva should know about bad behavior. He was accused of fondling a high school student. The case was eventually dropped which often happens when one knows the right people. He was suspended during the investigation but ultimately quit.]

Charles indicated that he believed all the cages were kept outside, and removed by mid afternoon. I looked on line and found that they had advertised an adoption event on Craig’s list [sic] for Saturday, March 2.

In talking to Mike Holmes and Matt – I learned ARK intended to close the ARK business and that Florida Wild [sic] was planning on opening a new pet accessory store in the ARK location. I think in order to figure out what the violation is we need to know if this has happened yet? Has the ARK BTR been closed or a new one applied for?

If they are having dog adoption events out there-What do we say they are in violation of? They aren’t exactly conducting their previous business that we shut down. [Emphasis added; Arrington placed in writing the city did shut ARK down in opposition to Elkind’s statement in Court.] Maybe they are having an event that is not allowed? And do we treat similar type events sponsored by other NFP’s occurring in front of other businesses in a similar manner? Bill [Chief Ridgeway] indicated that there was a shot clinic in front of the Dollar General this past weekend.

Charles said that he understood that there were some questions we needed to discuss and he is not pushing the issue. He thinks we should have good legal

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277 Email from Hall to animal rescue volunteers and forwarded by Clark to Ridgeway and Pleus, 2.27.13

278 “Allegation surfaces in district 1 campaign,” Orlando Sentinel, 8.23.06
grounds to stand on before we take action. [Emphasis added] So could we find out about the BTR’s and about what violation would be occurring? Should we also canvas other stores on US 17-92 for similar violations? All advice is appreciated.

Ridgeway to Arrington, Elkind, Pleus, Holmes, Grebosz: Just my thoughts, I do not think that we should take any enforcement action against anyone holding on. Adoption or vaccination events. I see them at other locations throughout the year within the city and think that they are good for the community. I’m not aware of any state law that they violate but they may be not in compliance with a code ordinance or special event requirement that we have as a city. I think MG [Mike Grebosz] or Matt could better answer those questions. If those types of events are in violation I suggest we look at how we could properly sanction or approve them through an ordinance or policy change.

Adair to Ridgeway, Arrington, Elkind, Pleus, Holmes, Grebosz: I concur with Bill.

Arrington to Ridgeway, Adair, Holmes, Grebosz: I tried calling. I think everyone is busy or out. Give me a call when you get a chance.279

Arrington’s remark that she thinks “everyone is busy or out” was true. They were next door to ARK’s former Rescue Center. Four months after the raid and thirteen years of dawdling DeLand broke ground on its multi-million dollar bus station adjacent to ARK’s former Animal Rescue Center (L). Timing is everything…. US Congressman John Mica spoke: “No project should take this long. It’s an inspiration,’ he began to say, before his speech to the small group of officials was interrupted by the sound of barking dogs from the adjacent animal hospital [FloridaWild]. ‘Even the dogs are upset about how long it took,’ he quipped, sparking laughter.”280

March 19 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Officers Trinity Petrella and Juan Millan were sent on a fishing expedition to interview former homeless Center tenants, Jim Brown and his wife. [The officers’ questions were leading to the point of being a joke. [Brown and his companion were angry when they had to move from the Center after the raid because they were caught stealing. Brown enjoyed testifying for the officers but when he was on the witness stand during the hearing he was decorous and truthful; alone with the police he was anything but – even saying he saw Daniel “kick a dog to death.” That was ludicrous but imagine how the officers felt being able to jot that down. There was no truth in that and nothing in their testimony could indict Hall for animal cruelty.]}281

March 20 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK: Off went Petrella and Millan again – this time to seek the “truth” from Jennifer Johnson now living in Orange City. All they came away with was that her husband, off the sex offender’s list, had a job in south Florida AND that any time an animal got sick Dr. Erin Holder would come over to check the animal or Johnson would take the sick one to FloridaWild next door. Question after question, tricking and trying – but all those officers got was that ARK took good care of its animals and kept the records to prove it. Their interview was ludicrous and desperate, obviously encouraged by Darren Elkind and city staff.)282

April 1 - (UNKNOWN TO ARK: More communications and covert operations consumed city staff.

Arrington to Elkind: I head [sic] you did a “fabulous” job last night. I also thought that you would want to know that Scott came in today to pick up copies of everybody’s

279 Emails between Pleus, Elkind, Arrington, Ridgeway, Adair, Holmes, Grebosz, 3.18.13
281 Interview with Brown and Springer by Petrella and Millan, 3.19.13
282 Interview with Jennifer Johnson by Petrella and Millan, 3.20.13
outdoor café licenses. We do not know what he has planned. [Scott Price, a former commissioner, was being harassed by the city concerning his downtown business.]

Did you ever reach Dr. Holder to ask her to not allow adoption events on her newly acquired property that was previously ARK? [Emphasis added; PROOF THE CITY WAS CHECKING ON WHO OWNED THE PROPERTY!!!!!]

Elkind to Arrington: No, I will call this week. I assume nothing has changed and I am still ok to call her.

Arrington to Elkind: I assume so. I was not in town this week, when I drove by on Sunday there were no adoptions occurring.]

April 28 – ARK’s Vice President, Linda Claussen, wrote Judge Shirley Green requesting a copy of the “supposed” settlement agreed upon at the hearing November 18, 2011, five months earlier. Judge Green sent a copy of Claussen’s letter to Darren Elkind.

May 5 – Thomas MacPhail, owner of DeLand Animal Hospital, husband to Deborah Ulbrich, both of whom testified against ARK at the hearing, was reported to the Florida Board of Veterinary Medicine for improper veterinary practice. He was given six months’ probation, fined $2,000, and required to take five hours of continuing education. A state’s attorney boarded her dog at their facility where her dog died. Computer records were evidently “changed” in the hospital computer to indicate the pet had received proper medication, etc. – though it had not. The owner/attorney filed charges and won.

When someone wrote a google review about the vets Ulbrich responded that the case had been dismissed. A fact check on Ulbrich’s statement to the attorney who tried the case, Elizabeth Henderson, proved Ulbrich incorrect. The case was NOT dismissed.

The DeLand Animal Hospital vets posted on ARK’s Facebook page that “...we wanted to let you know that so far we adopted out 20 of the 22 animals that the city...brought us.... We donated 100% of our veterinary services, care, boarding and even waived the adoption fee. It was our way of helping these animals. It is our sincere hope that you understand that there was no hidden agenda-we simply wanted to help. We are not taking sides....”

Once again they failed to tell the truth by failing to mention the City of DeLand and its taxpayers paid them over $4,000.

May 6 – (UNKNOWN TO ARK): Determined not to give up on getting ARK’S land, Assistant Manager Arrington and city staffers were emailing each other again after Evelyn Bearden sent a Craigslist alert to Deputy Chief Henderson regarding ARK adopting from the Center.

Henderson to Arrington: Just FYI. I saw this and thought you should know. I have no idea whether this is ok or not. You can see that it was posted 5-3-2013.

Arrington to Henderson, Elkind: Bill and I discussed this about a month ago. We decided not to move forward in taking code enforcement action against these occasional events because we have other groups doing the same or similar things (there was a shot clinic in the CVS parking lot this Saturday as well.)

Because ARK does this more weekends than not, Darren was going to discuss this with Erin Holder and let her know that it was not legal to use her parking lot for this

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283 Emails between Arrington and Elkind, 4.1.13
284 Letter from Claussen to Judge Green, 4.28.13
285 Letter from Claussen to Judge Green; Green copied to Elkind, 5.2.13
286 “BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE General Business Meeting, Page 8, Thomas McPhail, DVM: Case number 2011-040325, 3.5.13
287 DeLand Animal Hospital Google Review
288 Phone call to Elizabeth Henderson (850.488.0062) by Hall, 1.23.14
289 Facebook posting on ARK’s site by DeLand Animal Hospital, 1.5.13
290 Document from city to DeLand CPR, 11.16.12
By copy of this e-mail I am asking advise [sic] to let us know how the conversation went.\(^{291}\) [ARK volunteers didn’t know a Bearden and assumed it was a fictitious name. \textit{This was another Elkind lie; there was no law that ARK could not be allowed to hold adoption events on private property. NOW THE CITY WAS GOING AFTER FLORIDAWILD AND ITS LAND.}]\(^{294}\)

\textbf{May 8} – Judge Green responded to ARK’s Vice President that “it does not indicate that the Petitioner was provided a copy...also attaching a copy of the order entered.... I do not have any additional information concerning the matters discussed during the mediation conference and indeed the court is prohibited from being privy to those discussions. The order was approved by the attorneys for both sides.”\(^{292}\)

ARK never received a copy until its vice president requested one from Judge Green. The Order did not follow the agreed upon decision between both parties behind closed doors at the hearing. But that was not a surprise and it was too late to do anything about it.

\textbf{May 23} – Maggi Hall’s grandchildren were involved in a program at Children’s House Montessori that evening. Hall took two other granddaughters to the event. DeLand Animal Hospital vets Deborah Ulbrich and Thomas MacPhail also had children attending. At the end of the concert Hall found herself walking from the church sanctuary into the fellowship hall beside Ulbrich.

Hall was holding the hands of her grandchildren. She couldn’t resist leaning over to whisper to Ulbrich, “I see your nose hasn’t grown” to which Ulbrich turned and said “What do you mean?” Hall pointed to her own nose and said, “Like Pinocchio.” Ulbrich shot back, “You’re a fucking bitch” and stormed away. The church was crowded and a friend of Hall’s was in front of her. As they moved into the fellowship hall the vet couple sat at the far end of the room. After the program ended they disappeared. Hall later told her daughter, Dr. Erin Holder, what she’d said to Ulbrich and warned her and her children to stay away from Ulbrich.

Hall took her granddaughters home. Thirty minutes later her daughter called to say a teacher’s aide\(^{293}\) phoned her to say the police were on the way to the Montessori School because Thomas MacPhail had come screaming out of the church, “The police are on the way. Maggi Hall attacked my wife.” Of course the woman who called Dr. Holder had heard nothing as no one else had.

Hall told her daughter the vets were crazy and waited for the police to arrive at her house, three blocks from the school. According to witnesses at the school the police speared delighted to take down the “crime” report. The “thrilled” cops who had been involved in the illicit raid on ARK never came to Hall’s house, a mile down the road so Hall assumed the incident was over. But assuming something in DeLand Florida is dangerous. Hall would hear nothing until months later when she rattled the cages of the wild creatures who work at DeLand’s City Hall.

\textbf{May 30} – Dr. Holder wrote a letter to kill shelters stating, “At no time did I find any animals in any state of abuse or neglect. In fact my hospital was adjacent to ARK’s Rescue Center. Animals were often abandoned at their facility ill and dying. And every time the animal would be sent to me or to Altamonte Veterinary Hospital in Altamonte for medical treatment.”\(^{294}\)

\textbf{June 24} – DeLand Animal Hospital was voted in the \textit{News-Journal}, as “Best in the West.” Jim Jarrell wrote the \textit{News-Journal} notifying the paper that the hospital was anything but “The Best” especially since Thomas MacPhail was on probation for falsifying records. He copied his letter to area veterinarians. He received no response from the newspaper.\(^{295}\)

\textbf{July 2} - A veterinarian responded to Jarrell’s email. “I thought you should be aware that Deland Animal Hospital posted on their Facebook home page a link to vote for Best in the West contest and

\(^{291}\) Emails between Arrington, Henderson, and Elkind, 5.6.13

\(^{292}\) Order Pursuant to FS 828.073, 1.17.13

\(^{293}\) Phone call to Dr. Holder from Lisa Breitenstein, 5.23.13

\(^{294}\) Letter from Dr. Holder, DVM, to area rescue groups and kill shelters, 5.30.13

\(^{295}\) Letter from Jarrell to the \textit{News-Journal}, 6.24.13
those individuals submitting votes would automatically be entered in a drawing for $100 gift certificate. According to the News-Journal Best of the West Rules of June 9, 2013 edition “The News-Journal reserves the right to disqualify any business engaged in any form of ballot stuffing or any practice which offers a reader an inducement or other consideration in exchange for casting a vote in the poll.”

Jarrell again wrote the News-Journal but the paper didn’t respond and DeLand Animal Hospital continued to display its “Best in the West” banner.

**July 11** – Hall emailed Chief Ridgeway regarding the city refusing to pick up stray dogs and take to Second Chance as several people called ARK to complain. Once again people were afraid to call the police direct if a complaint was about the police. Ridgeway wrote to Deputy Chief Batten clarifying the position.

**August 1** – Almost a year after the raid supporters attempted a fundraiser for ARK organized by H & R Unlimited owned by Robin and Harper Hill of DeLand. Businesses and individuals refused to support ARK or return messages left on their answering machines; that’s how much damage the City of DeLand and its “informants” did to ARK. In fact, Google ARK or Maggi Hall and the computer pops with negativity.

A dozen committed to supporting ARK but the bowling alley cancelled the event, fearful of retaliation promised by threatening phone calls.

**August 5** – DeLand signed a contract with the Southeast Humane Society to haul its abandoned animals to their death; the cost to taxpayers approximately $85 per ill. With ARK’s Center closed DeLand again became a killing field for God’s innocent creatures. The city refused expert advice from the Director of the Halifax Humane Society. Saving abandoned animals and taxpayers’ money was ignored once again by city hall. It’s far easier to kill than rescue.

**Scene 4 – Revenge Arrest: Finally Got’cha Maggi!**

“People speak sometimes about the "bestial" cruelty of man, but that is terribly unjust and offensive to beasts, no animal could ever be so cruel as a man, so artfully, so artistically cruel.” — Fyodor Dostoyevsky

**August 17** – ARK volunteers and Hall believed city staff would no longer attempt to hurt the organization, her or her daughter so Hall wrote a letter to city commissioners and staff accusing them of acting illegally. She requested an apology. Needless to say no apology was given. **ARK volunteers would soon discover the city was ANYTHING BUT FINISHED WITH HALL AND ARK.**

**August 25** – William Shipp emailed Hall about Shiloh, the dog ARK saved from the city’s Second Chance facility and Manager Pleus raved about at the commission meeting two weeks prior to the raid. “Shiloh is doing great. As I write this he jumped up on the couch and is laying where I usually sit so I

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296 Veteran’s letter to Jim Jarrell, 7.2.13
297 Letter from Jarrell to the News-Journal, 7.2.13
298 Email from Hall to Elkind, 7.11.13
299 Pet Supermarket, Grrs & Purrz, Well Pet Care Clinic, Dr. Cheryl Kenlin (gave medicines to ARK); Volusia Vet Services, Woodland Animal Hospital, DeBary Animal Clinic, Volusia Woods Animal Clinic, Noah’s Ark, AA Animal Clinic, Woof Gang Bakery, Bark Avenue, Pet Rescue by Judy, Pampered Paws, Wizard of Paws, Party Animals, Best Paw Forward, Bewaggle Pet Services, CJ’s Purrfect Pets, Love’em and Lead’em Pet Sitting, Pet Spoiler Pet Sitting, My Angel with Paws, Spring Oak Animal Care Center, Walk Your Rhino Petsitting, Countryside Animal Hospital, Image Works, Brian’s BBQ, Simply Scrubs, WCA, Hester School of Nursing, Championship Martial Arts; H & R Unlimited, Inc., 8.1.13
300 Phone call to H & R Unlimited from Sunshine Bowling Lanes, 8.14.13
301 Contract for service between Southeast Volusia Humane Society, Inc. and The City of DeLand, Florida, 8.5.13
302 Letter from Hall to City Commissioners, Staff, 8.18.13
reckon I’m on the floor until he moves. I am so glad ARK saved him so I could adopt him.”

**September 13** – (UNKNOWN TO HALL): Imagine the excitement that was generated at city hall and the police station when Circuit Judge Rowe sent the city a Felony Warrant for Margaret S. Hall.**304**

**September 14** - Two police knocked at Hall’s door. She was away but a suspicious neighbor called to warn her. When Hall returned she phoned the police inquiring as to what they wanted. The officer told her there were two warrants out for her arrest but Chief Ridgeway wanted her to turn herself in rather than be arrested at her front door.

**September 15** – Maggi Hall, community leader for decades, winner of national, state, and local awards, was arrested on two charges: “Battery and Retaliating Against A Witness.” Ulbrich’s sworn statement taken May 23, four months earlier, had been sent to the state’s attorney May 30th but not acted upon until a few weeks after Hall’s letter to commissioners and city staff.**305** Coincidence? We think not! THE REVENGE ARREST CONVENIENTLY FELL INTO PLACE.

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303 Email from Shipp to Hall, 8.25.13
304 Felony Warrant in the Circuit Court for Volusia Co, FL, Case Number 13-102412CFDL, Judge Rowe, 9.13.13
305 “On 5/23/13 at 2036 hours I responded to the Childrens [sic] Montessori School at 509 E. Pennsylvania for a battery complaint. I contacted Deborah Ulblitch [sic] who reported that a known subject, Margaret Hall [sic], had grabbed her arm and shouted profanities at her. **After further investigation it was determined that Hall battered Ulbrich because she was a witness in an official proceeding and provided testimony at the proceeding.** Ulbrich reported to me that she and her husband, Thomas MacPhail, own the Deland Animal Hospital at 2120 E. International Speedway Blvd in Deland and work there as veterinarians.

Ulbrich then explained that Margaret Hall is the owner (incorrect) of the Animal Rescue Konsortium (ARK) at 441 S. Woodland Blvd in Deland. I have been in contact with Hall for an unrelated incident within the last year and know this to be true. In November of 2012 Ulbrich and MacPhail testified in a court proceeding on the condition of several animals that they took custody of after the animals were removed from the ARK by the City of Deland. On 5/23/13 Ulbrich reported that she and MacPhail were at a school function at the Montessori School when she was approached by Margaret Hall. Hail [sic] was there for the same function as she has grandchildren who attend the school. Hall approached Ulbrich and grabbed Ulbrich’s upper left arm with her hand and squeezed and then called Ulbrich a "Pinocchio." Ulbrich [sic] explained to Hall that she did not know what she meant.

Hall then told Ulbrich, “you and your husband are Pinocchios [sic], you know, the guy who lies a lot. **You know you are a fucking Pinocchio.**” Again, Ulbrich responded saying that she did not know what Hall was talking about. Once again Hall responded to that by saying **“that’s because you’re a fucking retard.”**

Ulbrich then attempted to pull away from Hall but Hall tightened her grip on Ulbrich’s arm. Ulbrich pulled away with more force and was able to break herself free from Hall and then walk away from Hall. Hall continued shouting at Ulbrich and her husband.

Ulbrich further reported that since she testified in November 2012, Hall has been sending her emails calling her a liar. Ulbrich also has discovered user generated comments and reviews on various web sites that say that Ulbrich is a liar and that she is an incompetent veterinarian. Ulbrich reported that these reviews and comments have similar verbage [sic] to the emails that have been sent to her by Hall. Ulbrich has copies of the memos sent by Hall and can provide them when needed. The emails were not available at the time of this report because of the location of incident. Ulbrich has provided copies to the city’s attorney, D. Elkind.

I looked at Ulbrich’s [sic] arm and saw several marks. I saw several long scratches on the bicep area of her left arm. I also saw the area around the scratches was [sic] red. I then saw redness on the bleept area of Ulbrich’s left arm. Ulbrich declined any medical assistance at the scene. I obtained several digital photos of Ulbrich’s arm and submitted the photos into evidence. Ulbrich and MacPhall [sic] completed sworn statements which I submitted to records. Ulbrich reported that she would like to press charges against Hall. I provided Ulbrich a victims [sic] pamphlet with a case number. It should be noted that there was [sic] likely several witnesses to the incident, however, I was not able to locate any because the school function had ended by the time police were notified. Ulbrich is going to attempt to identify the witnesses and will report the information as it becomes available.” Report given by Ulbrich and MacPhail to Ferrari, 5.23.13; Emphasis added
Hall turned herself in to the county jail, was driven around back handcuffed in a squad car, fingerprinted, searched, and photographed. She was then kept incarcerated in a cell for two hours until “paperwork” was complete. Her husband, Dr. Hall, sat in the waiting room grading Stetson philosophy students’ tests. He later commented, “Well I never thought in all my years teaching that one day I’d be grading papers while waiting for my wife to be released from jail!” Hall’s mug shot made the News-Journal the following day though the Beacon decided against printing the ludicrous story.

The warrant, filled with lies, was completed by Officer Justin Ferrari, the officer involved in the raid and in the chase against Marlon Brown when he was killed by the police. For three months Hall heard nothing from the police nor knew what Ulbrich “claimed” in yet another sworn statement of lies. The police held their secret close until Hall stepped out of line by accusing the city of slander and theft. Coincidence? We think not!

September 16 – Hall emailed Chief Ridgeway thanking him for the phone call. She wanted to see what his response would be. In truth she and her family felt Ridgeway did not want the police to go to Hall’s house for fear Hall would call the newspaper and the story would splash across the front page. Hall’s subject line to Ridgeway read: “From animal abuser to human attacker – supposedly.”

**Hall to Ridgeway:** Very strange events continue to unfold in Quiet DeLand. Thank you for having the officer explain the situation and not sending the police to handcuff me. I got his phone message while out of town. I’ll be following his instructions this morning. Have a great weekend.

**Ridgeway to Hall:** You’re welcome Maggi. My understanding is that the State Attorney’s Office followed up on a report that we had taken several months ago in regard to an Incident that involved you and another person. I believe that the attorney forwarded the complaint to a judge who issued the warrant. By statute, my officers are required to take anyone into custody that has an open warrant but I know you and your strong ties to the community and felt it would be better handled to simply inform you of the facts and have you take care of it.

**Ridgeway to Pleus, Arrington, Batten: (UNKNOWN TO HALL: FYI.)**

September 20 - Ulbrich had no witnesses save husband Thomas MacPhail, on probation by the Florida Department of Veterinary Medicine. The police claimed they attempted to locate witnesses though none were ever found. They interviewed a few people, including a 12 year old who said he saw Hall and that what Ulbrich said didn’t happen. No one saw anything because it didn’t happen. NO WITNESSES yet the cops took the report and chose not to stop at Hall’s house, a few blocks away, to continue the investigation and hear her side. After months of attempting to indict Hall on anything, the city got her!!! Imagine the celebration at City Hall?

The school’s director, Dora Mallett, told Hall’s attorney, Leanna Smith, she heard nothing of the sort happen at the school. The church was so crowded people were shoulder to shoulder. There was no way the “incident” Ulbrich and MacPhail swore to under oath could have happened without people aghast, scrambling to get away from the fighting females. Lying under oath is a felony.

Hall had numerous witnesses; Ulbrich and MacPhail had none. Hall also had two choices: Head to court and bring her witnesses to the stand including children and their parents or let the “misdemeanor” stand with no prosecution from the state’s attorney.

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306 Emails between Hall and Ridgeway, sent by Ridgeway to Pleus, Arrington, Batten, Proctor, and Morehouse, 9.16.13
307 Ibid.
308 Interview with Drew Breitenstein, Montessori student, to police, 5.23.13
309 Interview with Mallette by Smith, 8.17.13
Yes, Hall did speak to Ulbrich. Her exact words, “I see your nose hasn’t grown” to which Ulbrich asked, “What are you talking about?” and Hall responded, “Like Pinocchio.” Then Ulbrich said “You’re a fucking bitch” and stormed off.

Hall never profanity, never touched the woman; her grandchildren surrounded her as did Susan Peppers-Bates, a Stetson professor. Hall had the right under the First Amendment to insinuate, even accuse Ulbrich of lying.

There were scratches on Ulbrich’s arm according to the police but Hall had both hands full when she whispered to Ulbrich. So how did the scratches get on Ulbrich’s arm? Self-mutilation? Several teachers at the school concluded that’s exactly what happened. The police made sure there would be no evidence to prove Hall was unjustly accused. No way did the police department and city staff want Hall to demand a DNA test on Ulbrich’s “wound.” They didn’t want to talk with Hall. They weren’t after truth; they were cleaning up “unfinished” business. GET HALL. Get ARK’s land which had reverted back to FloridaWild LLC since ARK could no longer use the building.

As events unfolded so desperate to make a case against Hall, Ulbrich told the state’s attorney, Amy Walker, that Dr. Holder’s daughter (Hall’s granddaughter) wrote in her school diary “she was going to take Sarah [Ulbrich’s daughter] into the woods and kill her.”

Hall’s granddaughter wrote nothing of the sort. Her journal was presented to Hall’s attorney for proof. Did Deborah Ulbrich and husband Thomas MacPhail step across the line into total insanity and raw viciousness? Would a rational person use an innocent child as a pawn in a battle against an adult? But even more disturbing - how did Ulbrich know anything about another child’s diary at Children’s House Montessori? That would be a breach of privacy by a staff member.

Hall’s attorney revealed Amy Walker, the state’s attorney, no longer believed Ulbrich and wanted the entire episode from animal cruelty to the latest absurd complaint against Hall to “just go away.” Am Walker, possibly tired of Elkind’s preoccupation with getting Hall, had enough. Hall’s attorney said Walker admitted Elkind made many mistakes attempting to indict Hall.

October 1 – State’s Attorney, Amy Walker, notified the city it “Declined” to pursue the “Felony Cruelty to Animals” charge against Margaret S Hall. “…Ms. Hall’s culpability cannot be proven beyond and to the exclusion of a reasonable doubt, as is required to sustain a criminal charge. Physical evidence is no longer needed for Court and may be disposed of according to law,” wrote Walker. Of course the City of DeLand HAD NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE except fabricated videos and false testimony from fired vindictive ARK volunteers and paid city thugs. Hall received two documents from Florida’s State’s Attorney, Amy L. Walker:

State of Florida vs. Margaret S. Hall, A Defendant

Announcement of No Information

The State of Florida, by and through its undersigned Assistant State Attorney, announces and hereby files a No Information or intent not to prosecute with respect to the following charge(s):

1) FELONY CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

State of Florida vs. Margaret S. Hall, A Defendant

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310 Teachers remain anonymous for fear of retaliation.
311 In conversation with Hall and Smith, 9.19.13
312 Page from Children’s House Montessori writing book by E. Holder, age 8, 11.20.12
313 In conversation between Hall and Smith, 9.29.13
314 Office of the State Attorney Case Filing Recommendation to the City of DeLand, Amy L. Walker, 10.1.13
315 In the Circuit Court Seventh Judicial Circuit, in and for Volusia County, Florida, Amy L. Walker, 10.1.13
Announcement of No Information

The State of Florida, by and through its undersigned Assistant State Attorney, announces and hereby files a No Information or intent not to prosecute with respect to the following charge(s):

2) RETALIATING AGAINST A WITNESS
3) BATTERY

In the above agreement with the state’s attorney Hall chose not to go to court to prove her innocence because her witnesses would be parents, children, and teachers at her grandchildren’s school. Hall wasn’t about to put children through such a disgraceful experience though Ulbrich and MacPhail appeared eager to go forward. After all, MacPhail screaming at the top of his lungs in a crowded church building, “Maggi Hall attacked my wife” was tantamount to hollering “Fire” in a crowded theatre; not only reckless but mean spirited and dishonest. ARK volunteers wondered what the vets would do next. They had only to wait a few months for the next backstabbing event.

Hall’s refusal to go to court meant she had to request deferred prosecution. In order to receive deferred prosecution she had to “swear” to her “guilt.” What a laughing stock the legal system had become in DeLand Florida; working for the liars, protecting corrupt police and city officials. The statement written up for Hall was: “Defendant admits the facts alleging a criminal law violation set forth...or sworn witness statements(s) or information filed in this cause or any other charging documents are true and correct.”

In truth the only thing Hall admitted to and did do was “point out” a lack of growth to Ulbrich’s nose. Touch Ulbrich? Ha! Those vets had to be desperate to do what they did; city hall had to be desperate to go along with it. Sad for those involved. Evil may appear to win – but ultimately what goes around comes around. Maggi Hall wears her ARREST AS A BADGE OF HONOR against the recklessness of DeLand City Hall staff and comrades in corruption.

October 1 – Due to Hall’s arrest numerous people met to form “DeLand CPR – Citizens for Public Responsibility,” agreeing to remain anonymous. Hall wanted to sign her name to public record requests though anonymity was vital as several members were city employees.

October 28 – The city proved Hall correct; it would do anything to retaliate against her and her family. Mark Ellison, code enforcer who wrote complaints against ARK attempting to substantiate animal abuse, strode into ARK’s former Center, now The Funky Mutt Market, and said to the receptionist, “I’m glad I don’t have to give this to Maggi Hall” then handed her a citation for FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital for displaying “illegal banners.” The city employee, vindictive as ever, couldn’t get his facts straight; Hall didn’t own the building. Simply more nastiness, and absurdity by city staff.

November 4 – When the city sent Dr. Holder a NOTICE OF HEARING to appear in court Hall decided to prove the city was harassing her daughter. She started at the north end of DeLand on Woodland Boulevard and drove from Walmart down to The Funky Mutt Market. She counted over 50 banners including the two commercial buildings across the street from The Funky Mutt, Stetson University, and two churches.

DeLand CPR invoked the Florida Sunshine Law to request from the city copies of all citations given during that time frame. Not one of the 50+ businesses were cited: NONE EXCEPT THE FUNKY MUTT MARKET.

316 Ibid.
317 Deferred Prosecution Agreement, Seventh Judicial Circuit County Court, 10.3.13
318 Letter and document requests to commissioners and staff from Hall, 8.19.13
319 Notice of Violation to FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital LLC from City of DeLand, 10.28.13
320 Photographs taken by Hall, 11.4.13
321 Addresses and photographs collected DeLandCPR, 11.4.13
**November 5** – Dr. Holder hired attorney Matt Thompson who then requested from the city a copy of its codes. The city by then had received the public record request from Hall and called Thompson to say that, miraculously, The Funky Mutt Market was in compliance so Dr. Holder and Thompson needn’t appear in court. That’s not how code violations are conducted. The city backed down realizing this time it wasn’t going to get away with its mafia-style behavior.\footnote{Interview with Thompson, 11.5.13}

**December 2** – Veterinarian Deborah Ulbrich reared her head again in vengeance against Hall posting on her Facebook page a copy of Hall’s mug shot taken when Hall was arraigned. Ulbrich then wrote a shocking profanity-peppered attack against Hall. [The language and style of Ulbrich’s writing matches what Ulbrich stated under oath was what Hall said to her at the Montessori School.]\footnote{Written in its entirety, filled with falsehoods. Emphasis added.} Deborah Ulbrich: I feel extremely betrayed and disgusted tonight. Apparently, one of my FB “friends” gave some of my personal information I had posted on my FB to a person known as Maggi Hall (aka Margaret Hall). I just discovered this today as Maggi freely talks about my post (in detail) on an Internet site. This woman is out to get me. It is not “paranoia” but the truth. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME, PLEASE KNOW THAT MAGGI HALL WOULD BE THE MAIN PERSON to look to. Tom and I are emotionally drained—we thought we did the right thing by helping animals find homes not what we got....

It’s been over a year and this woman has tried to destroy my business and scare my family. Tom and I were asked by the City of Deland to testify against the rescue group (ARK) in November of 2012. Ever since, Maggi has been determined to destroy me—as she refers to me as “Debbie Do Nothing at DeLand Animal Hospital” or “Debbie Does DeLand” all over the Internet and to City officials.

It was over 1 year ago when the DeLand Police Department asked if we could harbor some severely neglected animals that had been seized from ARK. The animals were brought into our clinic (late at night) by the DeLand PD. Despite what ARK says, these animals were in bad shape—one even died that night. We provided intense medical care for them—we even shut down our cat ward (hence having to turn away regular cat boarders) to harbor some of them and used our own private rental home as a safe haven for the rest. We never received a dime for our efforts—in fact we spend THOUSANDS of our own money and 100% of hours helping these poor critters. Maggi Hall decided to make this personal.... Her constant slanderous fake internet reviews in regards to DAH and her nasty emails have been overwhelming. She was arrested for verbally and physically assaulting me in May of 2013 at our children’s school function. Maggi grabbed my arm (while little Olivia held my hand and kept screaming at me “hey Pinocchio, you know you are a fucking retard...you fucking retard”. She left scratches on my left upper arm and little Olivia was completely traumatized. Yes, we called the police, they took pictures, we had witnesses. she was asked not to step on the school grounds anymore. She was charged with 2 FELONY COUNTS—plea deal was reached and she is on a one year probation where she is supposed to leave me the hell alone. I wanted to drop the charges because I am afraid of her. However, after long discussions with the Chief of Police, the City of Deland Attorney and the District Attorney we decided to go ahead and press charges. So whoever gave her my FB info (about certain private posts) you can relay this to her... The district attorney’s office said one more incident and her ass goes to jail.

She is on a 1 year probation and is supposed to leave me alone. I will be contacting the District Attorney first thing in the morning but I feel that I have to shut down my FB. I don’t now [sic] who would have shared my personal info—I am very selective when it comes to accepting friend requests. Now am deeply hurt....So to those who betrayed me about Hall’s lies—Have a merry fucking Christmas and remember that no good deed goes unrewarded. Oh, just look at her....doesn’t she look like a witch? This is her lovely mugshot [sic]....the Chief of Police begged to personally handcuff her and haul her ass off to jail; [emphasis added] 12.1.13 [Ulbrich’s rant filled with lies.]
Hall wrote Ridgeway and attorney Elkind asking they place in writing that Ridgeway did not make the statement he “begged to personally handcuff her [Maggi] and haul her ass off to jail.” Ridgeway refused then after receiving her request he refused to meet with Ulbrich and Hall’s attorney. 324 One wonders if Ridgeway did, in fact, state his “wish” to Ulbrich since he wasn’t man enough or have enough integrity to stand tall for justice.

Hall’s grandchildren withdrew from Children’s House Montessori to attend St. Barnabas. Incredibly Ulbrich and husband MacPhail, also considered sending their children to St. Barnabas. It was later discovered that a female “posing as Maggi Hall” called the school office to warn the staff that “there had better not be any problems with my grandchildren from those veterinarians. They got me arrested!”

Now consider this: Would Maggi Hall call her grandchildren’s’ new school and announce she had been arrested? Or could a vindictive female, someone who hated Hall and wanted further retaliation, do such a dishonorable deed? Someone who had proven how unbalanced and vicious she was? All that was needed to prove Hall didn’t make the call was the telephone company’s record….

2014: Mission Accomplished – In More Ways than the Raid

“There is not a crime, there is not a dodge, there is not a trick, there is not a swindle, there is not a vice which does not live by secrecy.” — Joseph Pulitzer

February 7 – Amazingly, Hall was sent a formal invitation to the “Ribbon Cutting & Dedication of the DeLand Intermodal Transportation Facility” as she had served on the project design committee. As an award winning historic preservationist she requested the station replicate the Arts and Crafts architectural features present on her families’ adjacent four buildings including ARK’s former Center. The architect and city staff agreed.

After Mayor Apgar and US Congressman John Mica spoke (L), the ribbon was cut. It took thirteen years to initiate the multi-million dollar project that was BEGUN within weeks of the annihilation of ARK’s Center; definitely not a coincidence.

At the completion of the ceremony, Hall, sporting an ARK T-Shirt, was walking toward her car when Assistant Manager Dale Arrington literally chased her down, calling, “Maggi, wait!”

Hall stopped as Arrington approached. “I just want you to know this design was made because of your suggestions,” Arrington boasted.

Hall was dumbfounded. She expected an apology from Arrington. But Arrington wasn’t woman enough to admit a mistake.

“Yes Dale, I know about the design decision. I was on the committee. Remember?” Hall then turned and walked away. 325

324 In conversation with Smith to Hall, 12.2.13
325 In conversation with Hall, 2.7.14
**Springtime** – The burst of spring invigorated many, bringing an electrifying resolve amongst many citizens to reframe the town – the way it used to be. Sweet. Caring. Generous. Quiet. To that end they found three people that committed to running against the cronies at city hall who’d lived years in DeLand and knew it well.

**Krystal Brown**, an African American whose former husband was vehicularly lynched in 2013 by a DeLand cop as he ran him down in a field and crushed him under the car. Brown’s body remained under the tire for hours, even as he breathed his last. In 2014 Chief Ridgeway refused to acknowledge a 1,000 signature petition asking that he request a coroner’s inquest into Brown’s death. No way would city officials allow Brown to enter City Hall with any power so they found a candidate to toss in the ring:

**Jessica Davis**, also an African American. Her husband, Mario, was convicted a few years earlier of armed robbery, served time in jail, released and is on probation for 10 years. That didn’t bother the city. They named him to the Economic Development Board and his wife won soundly. The Davis couple is close friends with Volusia Co Council member Joyce Cusack. Cusack voted against hiring an outside attorney to investigate internal corruption and who received donations from the businessman indicted, had power in high places. Cusack was re-elected again and remains thick with Josh Wagner, county commissioner who has engaged in questionable activities. Corruption runs to the highest levels in Volusia County.

**Scott Price**, former city commissioner, greatly admired by the community and who knew how the city should be run, decided to give it another try. He was running to unseat **Leigh Matusick**, who doesn’t have her own opinions but seconds others, especially Mayor Bob Apgar. Matusick’s husband Bob is Stetson’s head cop and stated proudly to professors visiting his office to protest a military vehicle on Stetson’s campus, Matusick proudly claimed that his campus police are paramilitary. Like wife like husband as she supported the paramilitary raid on ARK. Scott was crushed by city staff’s determination to keep him silent.

**Pat Johnson**, sure he could defeat **Mayor Bob Apgar**, took his stand. Within weeks the *News-Journal* began digging, even fabricating stories about him. But then Pat Rice, the paper’s editor, lived just down the street from Bob Apgar. Johnson had lived in DeLand for years, owned several successful businesses, and had been tormented by code enforcement for ridiculous issues, determined to harass him until he buckled under. Apgar, fired as attorney for Consolidated Tomoka Land Company in Daytona refused to get another job. The local paper reported the following: "At 63, the mayor said he...doesn't want to drive to Orlando to work for a large law firm, or establish a law practice in DeLand from scratch." Apgar short sold his million dollar house in Victoria Park leaving the lender a loss of over $400,000; the mortgage was so blurry that it was sealed from the public and an attorney had to obtain a court order to unseal it. A real estate attorney, mortgage broker, and title company said the deal looked questionable.

Over 60% of campaign donations for Apgar’s mayoral race came from people living outside voting area including donations from Daytona millionaires. Shouldn’t we ask ourselves why?

**Summertime** - As the election blazed through the hot summer months, raging anger filled city hall. The local newspaper rags, the *News-Journal* and *The Beacon*, grew rancid with tales about the audacity of the new candidates. City staff held a picnic and “encouraged” employees to vote for the incumbents or their jobs would be in jeopardy. City Manager Michael Pleus said he’d leave town if Pat Johnson was elected.

**August 26** - Incredibly, on Election Day, as city staffers were standing on street corners waving banners for the incumbents, their front yards overflowing with incumbent signs, Matt Adair, code enforcer and Michelle Reander’s boss who ordered the raid on ARK, saw Maggi Hall putting out a campaign sign for Pat Johnson on her property. Hall had pulled her car up on the pavement to get out

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326 State of Florida vs Mario Davis, Case #: 2010 003927, 11.19.10
327 *The Beacon*, 12.09
328 Remain anonymous due to fear from retaliation, 4.14
329 City staff interviews fearing retaliation remain anonymous.
of the traffic. As she turned back to her car she saw Adair behind the wheel of his, taking a photograph of her. Adair then pointed to his cell phone, indicating he’d “captured her.” Caught her doing what? Pulling her car off the road and onto the sidewalk? Placing an election sign for Pat Johnson on her property? **On Election Day Matt Adair, partner in orchestrating the outrageous confiscation of private property, thinking himself above the law, now was intimidating a citizen, the very person he and City Hall attempted to destroy years earlier.**

The crony capitalists handily won re-election, crushing the new faces. Krystal Brown, Scott Price, and Pat Johnson went back to work as DeLand City Hall continued business as usual practicing Machiavellian Tactics against those they hate as they silence and intimidate.

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**GONE: The City’s Corrupt Plan Partially Accomplished**

**To the City of DeLand Staff, Commissioners, and Police:**

“Political power is everything. The end justifies the means. However unscrupulous, attain the upper hand even if that means deception, treachery, and lies. For the true Machiavellian, every action relates to this goal: all associations, all conversations, all friendships and activities are devoted to accomplishing this end....”

--Sir Anthony Parkhurst, *Principall Navigations*, 1589

Hall’s shrewd remark October 2011 to Assistant City Manager Dale Arrington and Arrington’s reply proved accurate: *“Dale, I think there’s a conspiracy against ARK”* to which Arrington agreed, *“Maggi, I think you may be right.”*

City Hall never proved animal cruelty existed because it never did. City Hall never proved Daniel Johnson lived at ARK’s Center because he didn’t; Yet so desperate for ARK’s property city officials attempted well into 2012 to destroy Hall. City Staff had denied her her rights under the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. City Staff and attempted by any means possible to enact The Civil Asset Forfeiture Law.

Who approved the illicit raid? Manager Michael Pleus? Assistant Manager Dale Arrington? Police Chief Bill Ridgeway? Matt Adair? Darren Elkind? It doesn’t matter. **City staffers listed in this story are culpable; Commissioners are culpable. All should be removed from office.** Those filing false statements against ARK and Hall are partners in corruption. They must live with their lies.

DeLand’s bus station is finished – minus an office for Greyhound - thus making inexpensive mass transit unavailable for residents. For obvious reasons DeLand was unable to confiscate ARK’s former center. ARK continues to hold adoption events on site. Still ringing loudly and menacingly is the voice of the city’s attorney. Spewing a “smoke screen” as to why the illegal invasion occurred, the self-righteous Voice of DeLand City Hall, Attorney Darren Elkind, threatened in a phone conversation to a downtown merchant after the hearing against ARK: *“If you ever harbor a sex offender you’ll get into trouble, too.”* He failed to have Hall arrested as a felon, attempting various other ways to “get’her – and possibly obtain that valuable land adjacent to the city’s bus station.
2015 and Beyond:

“Truth is generally the best vindication against slander.” --Abraham Lincoln

Life moved on in DeLand. The city granted the demise of more historic structures, adding massive new buildings downtown which increased the traffic, padding the pockets and greasing the hands of developers and those who would personally gain by city commissioners “always unanimous” votes.

**Spring 2018**

- Michael Pleus, City Manager, remains in power.
- Assistant City Manager Dale Arrington received a promotion and large salary increase and charged toward Orange City as its new city manager.
- Matt Adair also received a promotion. The former chief building official for DeLand, and partner in orchestrating the raid, was invited to work for Stetson. He is now ensconced in the facilities department.
- A few new faces have appeared on staff but mostly it’s the same old-same old with fear lurking in the wings and sullen faces and quiet whispers abounding.
- Half a dozen newbies are running for city commission. It will be interesting to see what happens. Apgar and Matusick promised they’d not run again.

The city’s questionable behavior continues and goes much deeper and is more terrifying than its illegal raid on ARK and the theft of private property. City staff’s alarming behavior marches forward – unrestrained. The local newspapers, the *News-Journal* and *The Beacon*, continue to bury their head in the sand and their hands in deep pockets. After all, advertisements cost lots of money!

*Dig deep if you dare – there is much to uncover…..*

**In Conclusion: Damages Caused ARK by the City of DeLand**

*I think that we all know what evil is. We have a sense of what’s evil...”*  
--Madeleine Albright

No evidence against ARK or Maggi Hall was ever produced yet their names forever have been defamed. What the City of DeLand did to them was unjustified; it was cruel and vicious. The city attempted to steal their soul and spirit.

ARK was allowing the city to give ARK all its dogs, even the most vicious and sick yet the City of DeLand never once made a donation to ARK. City attorney Darren Elkind lied at the November 2011 public hearing about ARK and Hall. Yet when Hall finally got on the witness stand with a dozen credible witnesses ready to testify and a wagon full of documents Elkind couldn’t wait to get her off the stand, to “settle” as he told Hall. Behind closed doors Elkind offered for the city and ARK to work together from that point forward yet he refused to return ARK’s stolen property. Hall never agreed to turn the animals over to the city.

The day following the hearing Elkind and city staff were harassing ARK and Hall, lying about them in the newspapers and attempting to close ARK. The agreement to work together evaporated as quickly as it began. Elkind and the City of DeLand proved they could not be trusted.

Astoundingly six months after the “settlement” Elkind and staff continued to attempt to prove Hall guilty of animal abuse; six months after the raid when there were no animals at ARK’s former center. But a police officer enlightened ARK’s Board with the disclosure: “**Have you heard of the Civil Asset Forfeiture Law?**”
No one had but his slight nod made the board realize, “The City of DeLand wanted our property.” Why else would the city continue its witch hunt? And why, after repeated attempts on the part of the state’s attorney to get proof from Elkind that Hall was abusing animals, was Elkind unable to send her even one shred of evidence?

In May 2012 when Hall was at her grandchildren’s church program she found herself next to two of the veterinarians who lied in court about ARK and her and allowed detestable things to be written on their blog about ARK, FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital, Dr. Holder, and Hall, Hall couldn’t resist saying something to them. “I see your nose hasn’t grown.” Debra Ulbrich shot back “What do you mean” to which Hall responded, “Like Pinocchio.” The curses spewing from Ulbrich’s mouth were shocking. What happened later that evening became yet another tale of harassment and lies with the veterinarians and the city consorting against Hall’s civil rights. When nearly everyone had left the church, including Hall, Ulbrich’s husband, Thomas McPhail, ran from the church screaming, “The police are coming. The police are coming. Maggi Hall attacked my wife!”

The cops arriving to take the sworn testimony of the vets could find no witnesses to testify the incident occurred. The school director had seen and heard nothing. The cops taking Ulbrich’s sworn testimony had been involved in the raid on ARK. Hall lived a mile from the church. Why didn’t the police go to Hall’s house to ask her what happened? But they probably knew that had they done so Hall would demand a DNA test of Ulbrich’s arm where Ulbrich showed scratch marks “supposedly done by Hall – in a crowded church no less? The conclusion of all who heard of the preposterous episode surmised, “Ulbrich self-mutilated.”

The revenge arrest of Hall took place in September “coincidentally?” a month after Hall requested the city apologize to ARK’s Board and informing city staff they would be requesting public documents regarding the raid. Hall was arrested within weeks of the letter to the city, accused of violence against a witness in a public hearing held 10 months earlier! The cops found no witnesses yet Hall was arrested anyway. The damages to ARK and Hall were extensive and still city staff has never apologized.

The Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) US federal law (Pub. L. 109–374; 18 U.S.C. § 43) prohibits any person from engaging in certain conduct “for the purpose of damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise.” The statute covers any act that either “damages or causes the loss of any real or personal property” or “places a person in reasonable fear” of injury.

- Denial of Hall’s First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments
- Collusion against Hall’s civil rights escalated after the “agreement” in court to work together with multiple affidavits to arrest Hall filled out on various dates; some backdated but never filed as lawyer Elkind continued months after “settling” with ARK to have Hall indicted as a felon
- Theft of ARK’s private property – medicine, animals
- Death of a kitten after removal; one dog killed at shelter
- Intimidated Hall into signing away a dozen dogs with the threat that “it will go easier on you in court”
- City separated medical records from animals; refused to allow ARK to give names, etc. of animals before they were confiscated; medical records never reunited with stolen animals thus proving the city didn’t care about the safety of the animals
- Theft of several dogs and cats privately owned and boarding at ARK
- Appeared to many the city was attempting to enact The Civil Asset Forfeiture Law to gain ownership of ARK’s valuable property adjacent to where city bus station was to be built; people kept saying during and after the raid “The city wants your property!”
- Videos taken by cops during raid uploaded that day to YouTube though film was “court evidence”
- Lies in Court:
First sentence out of lawyer Elkind’s mouth: “ARK isn’t a No Kill Facility, it’s a Kill Facility” – stated with no proof!

Second statement out of Elkind’s mouth: “ARK is paying the mortgage!!” This statement set in motion the belief the raid was about real estate confiscation as numerous people said during and after raid - The Civil Asset Forfeiture Law; suspicion strengthened further after attempting to have Hall arrested and labeled a felon months after the “agreement in court to work together”

Erin Grey, vet, made false statements with no proof about Hall or Dr. Erin Holder, DVM

Erin Grey and city staff showed video taken two days after raid to document horrid condition of center; failed to mention city staff never fed or watered animals; never took outside to use bathroom; did not allow ARK volunteers to complete morning duties including cleaning, feeding, watering, exercising animals

- DeLand Animal Hospital vets made false claims
- Multiple false accusations against ARK; city required no proof; pure witch hunt
- Horrid articles in newspapers, blogs, google
- Cyber bullying through blogs; newspapers refused to remove comments
- DeLand Animal Hospital allowed comments on its blog
- ARK left with over $4,000 in debt to FloridaWild Vet Hospital
- Adopt rate dropped annually from over 400+ at time of raid to 200+ (hundreds of animals died because ARK no longer rescue animals to be killed at shelters)
- The following ceased working with ARK though all apologized profusely and admitted their fear of retaliation
  - Stetson stopped first internship program in Florida with an animal rescue, not because it believed Hall was guilty but because negative comments would be made
  - 95% of volunteers quit from fear of retaliation from police, city staff, newspapers
  - Audubon of West Volusia stopped donating to ARK but continued it’s annual large donation to FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital for wildlife rehabilitation
  - PetCo – where ARK held weekly adoption events
  - Pet Supermarket – where ARK went after the raid to hold adoption events
  - Orange Co Animal Control – causing animals to die
  - Lake Co Animal Control – causing animals to die
- Dec ’12 - Orange City restaurant canceled a fundraiser for ARK after a threatening phone call
- Dec ’12 – Vet at DeLand Animal Hospital, Debra Ulbrich, posted on Facebook Hall’s mugshot after her arrest stating vile and aggressive comments about Hall
- Dec ’12 – Hall’s son-in-law was offered a job at St. Barnabas where his children were attending. Ulbrich wanted her kids to go there. A female called the director of the school pretending to be Hall and saying that she had been arrested because of Ulbrich and MacPhail and she feared for her grandchildren if Ulbrich brought her children there. Does it make sense Hall would call her grandchildren’s new school and announce she’d been arrested? Hall was so embarrassed by the situation she rarely goes to programs at SB.
- ’12 – ’15 - Affected Hall’s real estate business; loss of income, clients are her friends, few agents show her listings
- ’12 – ’15 - Affected Hall’s health; insomnia, depression, paranoia, won’t park car in front of house or answer door; won’t shop or eat downtown; won’t attend community functions except ARK’s adoption events on Hall family property
- ’13 – ’16 – City harassed and intimidated FloridaWild Veterinary Hospital until its lawyer contacted the city and demanded it cease and desist or face a lawsuit
• Dec ‘14 – West Volusia Historical Society asked Hall to have her home on the Christmas tour then a week later cancelled the request
• July ‘15 – When Hall held an election fundraiser at her home for new faces running against the incumbents only a handful of supporters attended
• ‘15 - Realtor Joan Cornett (husband, Taver, worked for the city) told Cheri Haring not to work with Hall’s real estate company because "Hall abused animals"
• ‘15 – City staffer Matt Adair who orchestrated the raid, intimidated Hall on election day by taking took photo of her putting a political sign in her yard; he smiled and pointed to his camera
• ‘16- Group to stop a major development in Hall’s historic neighborhood refused to hold a fundraiser at her home because the group didn’t believe people would attend
• ‘15 – Cyber bullying continues - [http://ourdnalist.blogspot.com/2015/02/hall-maggi.html](http://ourdnalist.blogspot.com/2015/02/hall-maggi.html) - Do Not Adopt List
• ‘16 – Contractor working for FloridaWild to construct addition told Hall city hated her and may cause trouble
• April ’16 – Hernando County Animal Service blocked ARK from rescuing pits who will otherwise die because of the Do Not Adopt list
• April ’16 – Cyber bullying on Facebook about Hall by Alice Finn, a person unknown to Hall
• June 1 ‘16 – Call from woman in Naples FL wanting to work with ARK; skeptical of ARK because of the trash she’d read on the internet

ARK, Hall, and its new board continue with heads up to rescue animals in need. Halifax Humane Society in Daytona Beach never stopped working with ARK. Orange, Lake and Putnam Counties BEGGED for assistance again in pulling animals set to be executed. Donations never ceased. ARK recently relocated to Crescent City Kennels in Crescent City Florida; its 2018 president, Ginny Oakwood, a member of the Putnam County Animal Board. ARK never skipped a beat, FloridaWild grew with the addition of hundreds of new clients, two additional building projects, and opening its integrative medical addition in ARK’s old rescue center. Maggi Hall continues her successful real estate company, West Volusia Properties, the West Volusia Historical Society featured the Hall’s 1927 historic home on its 2016 Christmas Tour. It was a smashing success. And of course, the City of DeLand has repeatedly refused to have taken off the internet the salacious stories and lies about ARK and Hall.

Vicious lies often die amidst smothering truth but if they don’t those who lie eventually are required to answer for their actions....

_Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword._

--Baron Bulwer T. Lytton, 1839