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## SELMA'S ANIMAL SERVICES SHINES WITH HEARTWARMING TEAMWORK



**SELMA, CA – A small act of kindness turned into a big win for Selma's community spirit during the City Council meeting on March 31, 2025. Deputy City Manager Jerome Keene and the Animal Services team stepped up to help a Heartland student in distress, showcasing the teamwork that keeps Selma's heart beating strong.**

City Manager Fernando Santillan shared the story during his departmental report, beaming with pride. "Jerome encountered a young man carrying his pet this morning," Santillan recounted. The student, late for school after chasing his escaped dog, was struggling to get [home](#). Keene did not hesitate. "I offered him a ride, but he did not trust me at first, no city logo, I guess," Councilmember Neil Osigara chimed in, having witnessed the scene. Keene then called in Animal Services, who swooped in to save the day.

Animal Services staff Caesar Luna and Elisa arrived promptly, as Santillan [confirmed](#). "They delivered the pet back to the residence and microchipped it on the spot," he said, ensuring the dog's safety for the future. Meanwhile, Keene drove the student to school, securing an excused tardy. "It was a big deal to him," Keene noted, reflecting on the boy's relief.

Councilmember Osigara added context, saying, "I saw this young guy walking with his little dog. He told me he lived way out there and did not know how to get home." Osigara flagged



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down Keene, sparking the coordinated effort. Santillan praised the team, stating, "Caesar came out to help, my Spanish is rusty, and it was a team effort."

The council chamber buzzed with appreciation. "We do not hear these stories often," Santillan said, countering criticism that staff do not care about Selma. Osigara agreed, saying, "Thank you, Jerome, for clarifying that." The incident, though small, highlighted the dedication of Selma's Animal Services and administrative team, proving they are ready to go the extra mile, literally.

This teamwork not only reunited a pet with its [family but also reinforced Selma's](#) tight-knit spirit. As the city tackles bigger challenges, like animal dumping and shelter staffing, it is clear that compassion remains a cornerstone. One student's tough morning turned into a tale of triumph, thanks to Keene and crew.