

SPCA Tampa Bay Board of Directors

Today we examine the most recently listed officers of the SPCA Tampa Bay Board of Directors.

These individuals have supported and are responsible for the continued disappointing leadership at the SPCA Tampa Bay.

What is the role of a board of directors of an animal welfare organization?

"The board of directors of an animal welfare organization is the **governing body**: it sets mission and strategy, oversees finances and legal compliance, and holds leadership accountable for the organization's performance. It usually does not run day-to-day operations; instead, it hires, supports, and evaluates the executive director or CEO who manages staff and programs."

Oversees finances and legal compliance

Examples of reckless spending of donor dollars are too numerous to mention here. *Indy's Voice 4 Animals* has documented the agency's reckless financial behavior in the links available at the end of this post.

[See *Indy's Voice 4 Animals* Here](#)

Holds leadership accountable for the organization's performance.

The live roasting of Waddles the pig at the SPCATB was not complicated to understand. It was preventable and it should have been

addressed immediately by the people responsible for oversight, the board of directors. It was not.

The moment SPCA Tampa Bay was cited for animal cruelty, the BOD had a clear responsibility: act decisively, protect the animals, and restore integrity to the organization. Instead, there was silence. There was inaction. There was a failure to lead when it mattered most.

CEO **Martha Boden** should have stepped down or the directors should have removed her from her position.

Boden did not step down and the directors did not remove her from her position.

The agency continues to spiral downward. Can it go any lower?

Months have passed. There has been a guilty plea, a motion to vacate that plea, ongoing legal proceedings, public outcry, local and national media coverage, and growing concern from the community. Yet despite all of this, the same leadership at the SPCATB has been allowed to continue.

The failure to act decisively at the board of directors level has not only prolonged this situation, it has created broader disruption across the Largo community. It has drawn in public agencies, raised serious questions about decision-making, and led to increased scrutiny of processes that should have been clear and straightforward from the beginning.

As a result, the State Attorney Bruce Bartlett, Largo Police Department and the Largo City Manager have been pulled into ongoing public concern and review. An Internal Affairs complaint has been filed with the Largo PD raising questions about how these matters were handled and why a clear resolution was not reached when they should have been.

This cascade of multi-agency involvement did not have to happen had the SPCATB directors been responsible and taken responsible action.

Board membership is not symbolic. It carries responsibility—especially in moments of crisis. Turning away or stepping aside during a critical

point does not resolve that responsibility, and it does not erase the need for answers.

For the sake of transparency and public understanding, it is important to identify who held these roles during this time. The community has a right to know who was in a position to act, what decisions were made, and why those decisions—or lack thereof—led us here.

The following individuals who were officers of the board during Waddles suffering are:

OFFICERS

Tina Thomas - Board Chair

Sr. V.P of Operations: Mission Health Communities

tina@missionhealthcommunities.com



Catherine Mitchell - Past Board Chair

Works at [Dynasty Financial](#)



Trevor Tillwick – Secretary

Executive at Molina Health Care

ttillwick@gmail.com



Dr. Julie Kessel - Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair

Principal at Tevunah Clinical Insights in the Tampa/St. Petersburg area

julie.kessel@cigna.com



Erica Maxwell - Governance Chair

American Heart Association

erica.maxwell@heart.org



Oversight is not optional. It is the core responsibility of a board. And when that responsibility is not met—when action is delayed, avoided, or ignored—the consequences do not stay contained within one organization. They ripple outward into the entire community.

What should have been addressed immediately has now escalated into a matter of public concern, community disruption, and ongoing questions that remain unanswered. The failure to act at the right time did not make this go away. It made it worse. It has made national news

Tina Thomas: What would have happened at Mission Health Communities if a care-provider observed a patient slowly roasting in the sun, within sight of the nursing station for 10 days without intervention?

Catherine Mitchell: As a professional in marketing and communications, how would a Dynasty professional like yourself market this animal cruelty crime to the public?

Trevor Tillwick: What would be the predicted long term growth results at Molina Health Care should the public learn that a patient was neglected for 10 days unprotected under the sun on the campus sustaining 3rd degree burns?

Dr. Julie Kessell: As a psychiatric provider, how does one manage the responsible party who saw a patient, within sight of their office window, suffer for 10 days under a scorching sun without intervention?

Erica Maxwell: How much weight can the heart bear witnessing animal cruelty without speaking up, and without consequence?

The community has shown patience, has asked respectfully and waited.

Leadership is not defined by titles or positions—it is defined by action. When action is absent, the public has every right to know why.

The board officers listed above held positions of responsibility during this time of Waddles' suffering. They're inaction communicates that animal cruelty on the campus of the SPCATB is acceptable and there is no consequence.

These officers are responsible for the cruelty to Waddles. They are responsible for every adoptable animal who has been destroyed at the SPCA Tampa Bay because that animal would not generate revenue.

Accountability does not disappear when positions are vacated, names are removed from a website or silence is maintained.

Although the SPCATB website can make names invisible, directors will not be invisible to the community for flaunting irresponsibility. [You can run, but you cannot hide.](#)

As the call for accountability continues, so will the examination of SPCATB board directors, past and present.

Future board members will also be examined if they continue to support the current and/or any future SPCATB administration that

demonstrates feigned compassion and an aversion to honesty.

The spotlight is not going away.

Thank you for reading our emails. You are an important part of raising the awareness of the corruption at where Pinellas County animal welfare and law enforcement intersect.

Please join us in asking the tough questions.

In the next of this series, we will examine additional current and past board directors who have stepped away from their responsibility.

Articles addressing SPCATB financial recklessness:

<https://indysvoice4animals.org/2026/01/19/is-the-sPCA-tampa-bay-buying-political-influence/>

<https://indysvoice4animals.org/2025/11/07/guidance-for-sPCA-tampa-bay-directors/>

<https://indysvoice4animals.org/2025/10/03/the-sPCA-tampa-bay-990-tax-filing-51-salaries-increase-over-the-past-3-years/>

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