

Communication from Public

Name: Jeffrey Mausner
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Council File No: 23-1008
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached.

There is an **emergency** taking place regarding animals in the City. **Severe overcrowding and killing of healthy adoptable dogs in the City Animal Shelters for lack of space is an emergency.** The overpopulation of dogs is costing the City millions of dollars. Please see: [Crucial City Funding: Spay and Neuter Saves Money and Lives \(citywatchla.com\)](http://citywatchla.com)

It is crucial that steps be taken immediately to decrease the number of dogs coming into the shelters. A moratorium on breeding permits is a necessary step in doing so, at least until this immediate emergency is resolved.

At the same time, I suggest that the City Council also take the following steps to address the overcrowding emergency:

1. Encourage spay/neuter of pets by increasing funding for more free and discounted spay/neuter vouchers and increasing the amount veterinarians are paid for performing spay/neuters under the vouchers. The amount of payment to vets pursuant to the vouchers is ridiculously low and, as a result, there are not enough vets willing to perform spay/neuters under the vouchers. Increasing the availability of vouchers and raising the fees paid to veterinarians to encourage them to perform spay/neuters is a necessary step in solving the emergency.
2. Deploy an advertising/email/social media campaign for spay/neuter vouchers. As part of this campaign, make clear that the City is going to **start enforcing spay/neuter laws more vigorously, much more vigorously.** Publicize that you can use a free or discounted spay/neuter voucher to avoid a severe fine. There should be severe fines for failure to spay/neuter, with minimal or no waivers.
3. Use the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter in Mission Hills on an emergency basis to house dogs from overcrowded shelters. Call for all experienced former volunteers to return to help care for the animals there. Bringing back former volunteers who were wrongfully terminated or left because they were mistreated will not only allow this to be done at the lowest cost for the City, but it can also resolve the ongoing issues and avoid potential litigation regarding the former volunteers.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Mausner

(For identification purposes:

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Executive Committee

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This comment is not posted on behalf of the Animal Services Department.