

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the long term plan for the West Valley Animal Shelter.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Lee - Blumenfield):

1. AMEND the Motion to replace the third paragraph with the following:

In 2019, the West Valley shelter impounded a total of 9,320 animals, while the East Valley shelter impounded 14,605. With both valley shelters covering a geographic expanse that constitutes 40 percent of the total area of Los Angeles and with an estimated 1.77 million population, it is imperative that the City move forward on a long term plan for the West Valley Animal Shelter.

2. DIRECT the Department of Animal Services to report in regard to its long-range plan for the West Valley Animal Shelter to include:
 - a. The impacts of current DAS staffing levels on the re-opening of the West Valley Animal Shelter as a fully operational animal shelter.
 - b. The roles and duties of the various DAS staff positions that are essential for the re-opening of the West Valley Animal Shelter as a fully operational animal shelter.
 - c. The impacts of current and future anticipated budgetary shortfalls on DAS staffing with special consideration of:
 - i. Personnel losses due to the Separation Incentive Program.
 - ii. COVID-19
 - iii. Furloughs

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: Yes.

For:

Encino Neighborhood Council
Northridge South Neighborhood Council
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council
Tarzana Neighborhood Council

For, If Amended:

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council
Northridge East Neighborhood Council
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On November 4, 2020, your Committee considered a Motion (Lee - Blumenfield) relative to the long term plan for the West Valley Animal Shelter. According to the Motion, in November 2000, Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly approved Measure F which provided nearly \$533 million in bond funding for a major upgrade of the City's fire stations and animal shelters. Over the course of the ensuing years, almost all of that funding has been expended on projects to modernize and expand the City's fire and animal care facilities. This General Obligation Bond provided the necessary \$154 million in financing for the construction and/or rehabilitation of 8 animal shelters, most notably the West Valley Animal Shelter.

In response to the City's current financial situation, due to the impacts of COVID-19, our City departments have had to make temporary changes to their operating budgets and that includes the Department of Animal Services. However, it has come to the Council's attention that the once temporary plan to shutter City operations at the West Valley Animal Shelter, due to COVID-19, could now become permanent. With both valley shelters covering a geographic expanse that constitutes 40 percent of the total area of Los Angeles, with an estimated 1.77 million population, it is imperative that the City maintain its operations at the West Valley Animal Shelter. In 2019, the West Valley shelter impounded a total of 9,320 animals, while the East Valley shelter impounded 14,605. The City would be negligent in their obligation to provide necessary services to all stray or lost animals if the West Valley shelter no longer operates as a city shelter and the burden to accommodate and care for an estimated 24,000 animals is left to only the East Valley shelter. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the Motion, as amended and detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

LEE: YES

PRICE: YES

ARL

11/4/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-