

PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE and BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEES' REPORT relative to transferring funds and authorizing two positions for the Citywide Community Cat Program.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. REQUEST the Controller to transfer \$550,000 from the Unappropriated Balance, Animal Sterilization Trust Fund (Fund No. 100/58, Account No. 580265) to the Department of Animal Services (DAS), Animal Sterilization Trust Fund (Fund No. 842/6, Account No. 060053) to administer the Citywide Community Cat Program.
2. RESOLVE and AUTHORIZE the following two positions within the DAS for the period of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022, subject to allocation by the Board of Civil Service Commissioners:
 - a. Director of Field Operations (Class Code 4321)
 - b. Management Analyst (Class Code 9181)

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DAS reports that the impact to the General Fund in the current Fiscal Year (FY) as a result of the recommendations contained in the February 16, 2022 DAS report, attached to the Council File, is \$107,256. The full cost of the additional positions for FY 2022-23 is estimated at \$378,121 including related costs. The DAS will submit a budget request as part of the FY 2022-23 budget development process for the continuation of these positions with funding in FY 2022-23.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On April 6, 2022, the Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare (PAAW) Committee considered a February 16, 2022 DAS report relative to transferring funds and authorizing two positions for the Citywide Community Cat Program. According to the DAS, in 2006, the City proposed implementation of a "trap, neuter, return" (TNR) program to help address potential environmental and public health impacts associated with the existing population of free-roaming cats in the City. In 2008, a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-based legal challenge to the TNR program was filed against the City and, in 2010, as a result of the legal challenge, a permanent injunction was entered by the court that, in general, prohibits the City from engaging in TNR or facilitating others to engage in TNR, until such activities are analyzed as required by CEQA.

In conjunction with a qualified environmental consulting firm, the City completed an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) regarding free-roaming cats. Upon completion, the final EIR was subsequently approved by the Animal Services Board of Commissioners and the City Council. As part of the City's Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget, \$550,000 has

been allocated in the Unappropriated Budget to be requested as the Citywide Community Cat Program (CCP) was to be administered and to help cover the CCP costs for all spay/neuter services associated with the program. This request is a direct outcome of the final EIR to transfer these funds to the Department of Animal Services to pay local veterinarians for spay/neuter services for free-roaming cats at a level shown to reduce the overall free-roaming cat population, which as analyzed in the Final EIR would be an estimated 20,000 surgeries, annually.

The final EIR provided detailed specifications for the CCP. During the planning phase, the team at the DAS carefully reviewed and considered these specifications to ensure that all requirements will continually be met. The DAS sought the assistance of Maddie's Fund in this effort. Maddie's Fund has assisted many municipalities with the design and implementation of CCPs. Their professional advice and guidance led to the development of a detailed program outline (attached) that the Department will adhere to in administering the City of Los Angeles CCP. At present, the DAS has finalized the web portals that will be utilized to automate the permitting, program application, spay/neuter voucher request and payment elements of the program. It is anticipated that the program will be fully implemented by the end of March 2022. The \$550,000 in allocated funds will be needed to compensate our partners providing spay/neuter services.

Also, the DAS is requesting two position authorities by resolution, one Director of Field Operations (Class Code No. 4321) and one Management Analyst (Class Code No. 9184). The Director of Field Operations will serve as a Feline Lifesaving Manager for the Program, tasked with providing outreach and educational services regarding the CCP for the DAS' program partners and the community. The Management Analyst will be responsible for managing all of the administrative requirements for the CCP. The CCP will require staff to track data, issue and track cat sterilization vouchers, issue trapping permits, process reimbursements to participating veterinarians and maintain the program's electronic voucher, application and permit portals. The DAS currently does not have the appropriate level of staffing nor staffing with the appropriate expertise to successfully carry out these functions and will seek to fill the positions immediately.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the PAAW Committee moved to recommend approval the recommendation contained in the DAS report. Subsequently, on April 11, 2022, the Budget and Finance Committee also considered this matter and after having provided an opportunity for public comment, moved to concur with the PAAW Committee. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Personnel, Audits, and Animal Welfare Committee



COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
KORETZ:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES
BONIN:	ABSENT

Budget and Finance Committee



COUNCILMEMBER	VOTE
KREKORIAN:	YES
BLUMENFIELD:	YES
DE LEON:	ABSENT
RODRIGUEZ:	YES
Price:	YES

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4/11/22

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-