

PERSONNEL, AUDITS, AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to proposed First Amendment to the grant agreement from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

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

1. ACCEPT the First Amendment to the grant agreement from the ASPCA for an additional \$110,000 for a total award of \$510,000 and an extension of the grant term from December 22, 2019 through December 31, 2022 for a three-year grant award for fee-waived public adoptions of cats and kittens in the amount of \$360,000, \$110,000 and \$40,000 for marketing and promotional activities.
2. APPROVE the deposit of the funds described above in Recommendation No. 1 into the appropriate accounts within the Animal Welfare Trust Fund– Fund No. 859 and restrict these funds for the designated purpose of fee-waived public adoptions of cats and kittens and marketing and promotional activities.
3. AUTHORIZE the Board of Animal Services Commissioners to transfer the ASPCA grant funds from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund– Fund No. 859 to the Animal Sterilization Fund– Fund No. 842 quarterly for reimbursement of sterilization costs associated with all ASPCA sponsored fee-waived public adoptions of cats and kittens until the \$470,000 is exhausted.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DAS reports that there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. Authorization to transfer the grant's funds held in the Animal Welfare Trust Fund – Fund No. 859 to Animal Sterilization Fund– Fund No. 842 is required to prevent the City's General Fund from subsidizing sterilization costs associated with ASPCA's sponsorship of fee-waived public adoptions of cats and kittens.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On June 15, 2022, your Committee considered an April 6, 2022 DAS report relative to proposed First Amendment to the grant agreement from the ASPCA. According to the DAS, it is constantly seeking new and innovative avenues for encouraging animal adoptions in the City of Los Angeles and this grant will help to accomplish this goal while increasing the Department's live save rates. Over the years, the DAS has used a variety of strategies to encourage adoptions. One proven successful method is to offer fee waived adoptions. Documented data supports that when an organization has offered to subsidize adoption fees, adoption numbers have risen during the reduced fee period.

Detractors to this method believe that reduced fee and/or fee waived adoptions devalue an animal and increase the potential for an animal to be abused, abandoned or neglected. Nationwide studies have gathered information from numerous adoption agencies and

there is no evidence to support a greater likelihood of abuse or neglect in fee waived adopted animals. This is the DAS' fourth ASPCA grant. Prior grants were received in 2015, 2017, and 2018 but did not include funding for marketing or promotional activities. The 2020 ASPCA grant subsidized a total of 9,345 free cat and kitten adoptions, 3,865 in 2020 and 5,480 in 2021, which positively impacted our overall live save rate.

On January 25, 2022, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners authorized the acceptance of the First Amendment to the Grant Awarded by the American Society for the ASPCA for an additional \$110,000 for a total of \$510,000 and an extension of the Grant Term to December 22, 2019 through December 31, 2022 subject to the approval of the City Council and Mayor. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the DAS report. 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

ARL

6/15/22

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-