

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR, PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE relative to acceptance of a \$400,000 grant 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 a total of \$400,000 from the ASPCA as a two-year grant award for fee-waived public adoptions of cats and kittens in the amount of \$360,000 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 authorize the transfer of ASPCA grant funds from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund- Fund No. 859 to the Animal Sterilization Fund- Fund No. 842 bi-annually for reimbursement of sterilization costs associated with all ASPCA sponsored fee-waived public adoptions of cats and kittens until the \$360,000 is exhausted.
4. AUTHORIZE the creation of a new appropriation account within the Animal Welfare Trust Fund- Fund No. 859 for marketing and promotional activities, entitled, Marketing and Promotions.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Department of Animal Services (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 February 4, 2020, the Committee Chair considered a February 26, 2020 DAS report relative to the acceptance of a \$400,000 grant 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 DAS's live save rates. In 2019, kitten season was especially busy and acceptance of these funds will allow the DAS to fund adoption events focused on cats and kittens in order to increase the chance of rehoming every healthy and adoptable animal. 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's fourth ASPCA grant. Prior grants were received in 2015, 2017, and 2018, but did not include funding for marketing or promotional activities. The 2018 ASPCA grant subsidized a total of 6,639 free cat and kitten adoptions which positively impacted our overall live save rate. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee Chair moved to recommend authorizing acceptance of the grant from the ASPCA as detailed in the DAS report and the above recommendations. This matter is now forwarded to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ, CHAIR  
PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

**MEMBER VOTE**

KORETZ: YES

LEE: ABSENT

PRICE: ABSENT

ARL

3/4/20

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**