

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle Cornelius

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Comments for Public Posting: The language of the motion is incorrect because it states that the City has 7 animal shelters when you actually have 8: East Valley, West Valley, Northeast Valley, West LA, Harbor, North Central, Chesterfield Square and Jefferson Park. Prop F was passed by voters in 2000 to build, expand, and renovate 8 animal shelters. In the Prop F voter guide, the City made 3 promises it hasn't kept: 1. The City said that "animal shelters need to be added to improve response time." One of those "added" shelters was Northeast yet officers are not being deployed from there so response times have not been improved for residents in the northeast valley. 2. The City said that the number of dog kennels "must be expanded to 1200 to be safe and humane." If DAS had access to all 1200 dog kennels, the overcrowding problem would not be as severe as it has been over the last several months. While City shelters were overcrowded, Best Friends - which operates Northeast - has only pulled 31 dogs in the first 8 months of this year so kennels must be sitting empty at that facility. 3. The voter guide acknowledged that City would need to staff the new facilities: "Additional appropriations from the City's General Fund will be required to open the replacement facilities and to open and provide on-going maintenance for 1 new satellite fire/paramedic station, and on-going staffing and maintenance for the 2 new animal shelters." It's been over 20 years since the City made these promises to voters and yet we are being told that you can't find \$3-4 million in a budget of \$11.7 billion to staff and operate the Northeast Valley shelter. While additional funding is welcome, they should have to be specific about what they are using the funds for - "operational needs" is very vague. How much for the spay/neuter fund? How much for the Citywide Cat Program? How much for enrichment and how will they make sure that the animals receive the enrichment? Lastly, why hasn't the other motion 22-0943 about the budget for DAS been advanced in committee?