

# BUDGET & FINANCE

## MOTION

Every Department across our City is feeling the impacts of understaffing, including the Department of Animal Services (DAS). Staffing shortages have been a major contributing factor to the crisis we are experiencing in our shelter system where dogs go unwalked and kennels go uncleaned.

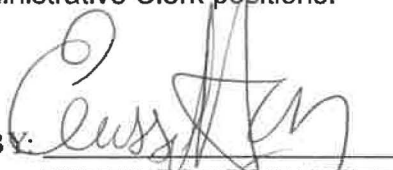
Angelenos across the City, moved by their love of animals and their understanding of the dire conditions our shelters are in, have stepped up to provide a robust volunteer effort to support the Department. But while ordinarily volunteers would be providing animal enrichment, as DAS navigates its staffing emergency, volunteers have stepped up to provide basic care such as providing food and water and cleaning. The dedication of DAS volunteers is exceptional, but these duties, quite plainly, should not be incumbent upon a volunteer base to provide. Not only are these tasks beyond the normal scope of volunteerism, but they also deprive the animals in our shelter of the much needed enrichment volunteers ordinarily deliver.

As we see across the City, filling full-time positions can be a lengthy, difficult process. DAS staff are tired and the overwhelming heartbreaking conditions at the shelters are taking a toll on them. While our Personnel Department is putting in hard work and meaningful collaboration with other Departments to fill our vacant full-time positions, we must find ways to ensure the vital work in our shelters gets done in the meantime and provide some much needed relief for the current DAS staff immediately.

One tool the City has at its disposal is to bring in as-needed workers, a process with a much lower barrier and a much faster timeline. DAS has determined that with \$2,992,800 in additional funding for their "Salaries, As-Needed" account, they could bring on 90 Relief Animal Care Workers and 30 Administrative Clerks. These positions would be a vital piece of providing the care our shelter animals need and deserve, in providing flexible employment for Angelenos, and in allowing our volunteers to return to their enrichment work.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer (CAO) be instructed to report on funding options, including the Unappropriated Balance and the Animal Welfare Trust Fund, to add an additional \$2,992,800 of funding to the Department of Animal Services (DAS) "Salaries, As-Needed" account, which would be necessary to hire 90 as-needed Relief Animal Care Worker positions and 30 as-needed Administrative Clerk positions.

PRESENTED BY:

  
EUNISSES HERNANDEZ  
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Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

OCT 04 2023



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