

MOTION

The Northeast Valley and Jefferson Park Animal Service Centers provide animal care services for the overflow animals from the six City operated shelters. In 2011, the Department of Animal Services (DAS) executed a contract with Best Friends Animal Society (Best Friends) to operate Northeast Valley, from January 1, 2012 through December 30, 2016. The DAS then executed a second contract with Best Friends to continue operating Northeast Valley, from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2022. In 2018, DAS executed a contract with Best Friends to operate Jefferson Park, from April 27, 2018 through March 28, 2021, with the option of three one-year extensions. The DAS is in the process of executing the third and final one-year extension, which will expire on April 26, 2024. Under these two contracts, the City paid for basic utilities and maintenance.

In July 2022 and January 2023, the DAS issued Request for Proposals (RFP) to select new operators for the Northeast Valley and Jefferson Park Animal Service Centers respectively. The RFPs state that the awarded operators would be responsible for the utilities and maintenance. Only one response was received from Paws for Life K9 Rescue (Paws for Life) for Northeast Valley, which was a subcontractor of Best Friends and already operating out of the facility. Although Paws for Life was selected, it subsequently informed the DAS that it could not perform the service if obligated to pay for the utilities and maintenance. To ensure services remain uninterrupted, Paws for Life has been operating the Northeast Valley since Best Friends' contract ended on December 31, 2022. The Department anticipates that it will not receive any bids for Jefferson Park if the City requires the contractor to pay for utilities and maintenance. It is in the best interests of the City to continue offering the prior arrangement whereby the City covered the basic utilities and maintenance in exchange for no-cost services to operate the facility. DAS is in the process of issuing a new RFP to address this issue, but needs a lease or license agreement with Best Friends in the interim to operate the Northeast Valley Animal Service Center.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of General Services, with the assistance of the Department of Animal Services, the City Administrative Officer, the and Office of the City Attorney, to negotiate a no-cost, one-year lease or license agreement with one-year option to renew at the City's discretion between the City of Los Angeles and Paws for Life K9 Rescue for the operation of the Northeast Valley Animal Service Center for services provided under Contract No. C-128954.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer with the assistance of the General Services Department and the Department of Animal Services to report on the funding needed to cover basic utilities and maintenance at the Northeast Valley and Jefferson Park Animal Service Centers.

PRESENTED BY: Monica Rodriguez Heather Hutt
MONICA RODRIGUEZ HEATHER HUTT
Councilwoman, 7th District Councilwoman, 10th District

SECONDED BY: Katy Goodley

ORIGINAL