



VIA E-MAIL

November 17, 2010

Councilmember Grieg Smith
Chair, Public Safety Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

**Re: Council File #10-0982: Pet Limits Increase
Community Impact Statement from Mid City West Community Council**

Dear Councilmember Smith:

On November 9, 2010, the Mid City West Community Council Board of Directors voted 11 to 5 (with six abstentions) to **oppose** amending the municipal code to increase, from three (3) to five (5), the number of dogs and cats allowed per residence.

The Majority Viewpoint

Mid City West is sympathetic to the concerns about the numbers of dogs and cats that are euthanized in the City of Los Angeles. However, we do not believe that the current proposal provides an appropriate response to the problem.

In our neighborhood, almost all residential lots are about 6,000-6,500 square feet. Much of our neighborhood is zoned R2, with two residences on each lot. Houses are close to each other and have relatively small yards. Most board members believe that five (or in the case of duplexes, ten) dogs on a single small lot is highly likely to be disruptive to neighbors, because of barking, odors related to the challenges of cleaning up after five or ten dogs, etc. While the City does provide procedures for people to complain about nuisance pets, that process is long and laborious.

The bottom line: when the question was posed this way: "Do you want to live next to a house with 5 dogs, or a duplex with 10 dogs?" most board members answered "No." We believe that, in our neighborhood, very few if any people can maintain that number of pets without causing problems for their neighbors.

543 N. Fairfax Avenue, Suite 106 • Los Angeles, CA 90036 • Office: 323 651 3512 • Fax: 323 852 1407

Beverly Center • Beverly Grove • Burton Way • Carthay Circle • Fairfax District • Melrose • Miracle Mile • Park La Brea

For some, this concern is heightened by the fact that a very large proportion of dogs in Los Angeles' animal shelters are large breeds with a reputation for aggression, such as Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, and Staffordshires. They question how many of the euthanized dogs are actually adoptable, and whether people should be permitted as a matter of right to maintain packs of large, aggressive dogs.

Minority Viewpoint

Those who support the ordinance believe that, as a practical matter, very few people will own the maximum number of animals, and argue that cities without maximums do not have greater problems with irresponsible pet owners. They believe that the ordinance will reduce the number of euthanizations in Los Angeles animal shelters, and increase compliance with animal licensing requirements.

Although Mid City West does not agree with the recommendations of the Department of Animal Services, we wish to express our appreciation to General Manager Brenda Barnette for attending our board meeting to answer questions about the proposed ordinance.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jeff Jacobberger
Chair, Mid City West Community Council

- cc: Councilmember Tom LaBonge
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Herb Wesson
John White, Legislative Ass't, Public Safety Committee