

Your **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**reports as follows:**

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE relative to streamlining the dog licensing process, and establishing late fees, fees for service, and administrative citation penalties.

Recommendations for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

1. PRESENT and ADOPT accompanying ORDINANCE amending various provisions of Sections 53.00, *et seq.* of Article 3, Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to enable the Department of Animal Services to streamline its dog licensing process; and, to establish a late fee of \$20.00 for a sterilized dog and \$100.00 for an unsterilized dog if the dog license tax and fee are not paid within 30 days of the due date, a \$25.00 field collection fee for license taxes and fees collected at the dog owner's property, and administrative citation penalties in the amounts of \$250.00, \$500.00, and \$1,000.00 for failure to obtain or renew the license within 45 days.
2. DIRECT the Department of Animal Services to report to Council with recommendations for providing entrepreneurial incentives for veterinarians to sell pet licenses to their clients, the impact of multi-year licensing on future budgets, and improving the Departments web-site to high-light licensing and spay/neuter requirements.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The Department of Animal Services reports that eliminating the civil penalty is not expected to have a negative revenue impact since it is rarely applied. Increased revenue from application of the reasonable late fees is fairly certain but the amount to be expected is difficult to estimate because the program is completely new. Also, revenue will increase because the late fee may motivate some people to act who otherwise might forget to license altogether, or some may select higher-first-year-revenue, multi-year licenses to avoid annual payments and fees. The Department further reports that charging a half-price fee of \$7.50 per license to seniors and disabled persons of low-income will yield about \$30,000 per year, helping to offset the cost of clerical staff which processes the licenses.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

Accompanying a report to Council dated February 18, 2011 (attached to the Council file), the City Attorney presents Ordinance amending various sections of the LAMC to enable the Department of Animal Services to streamline its dog licensing process, substantially as approved by the Board of Animal Services Commissioners. The City Attorney reports that the Board on April 27, 2010, approved additional amendments such as late fees and deleting the \$500 penalty, offering a 50% discount instead of a free license for disabled persons or low income seniors and granting a \$5.00 discount for three year licenses. These proposed amendments were approved by the Public Safety Committee at its meeting held July 26, 2010. The Board also approved a new \$25.00 field collection fee when the license tax and fee are collected at the dog owner's property following a notice to pay by the Department. The City

Attorney's report details the fourteen LAMC amendments contained in the accompanying Ordinance.

At its meeting held March 7, 2011, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the City Attorney and the Department of Animal Services. Committee members expressed concern regarding the potential impact that accelerating pre-payments of dog licensing would have on future fiscal year revenue streams. It was also suggested by the Committee that the Department develop incentives for veterinarians to sell pet licenses to their clients. During the public comment period, a member of the community stated that the Department's web-site is inadequate. Links to spay and neuter requirements and services are obscure. The Committee recommended that Council approve the accompanying Ordinance enabling the Department to streamline its dog licensing process, and to direct Department to report relative to the issues mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -**

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
SMITH:	YES
CARDENAS:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
REYES:	ABSENT
ZINE:	YES

JAW  
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