

REPORT FROM

## OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Date: September 16, 2010

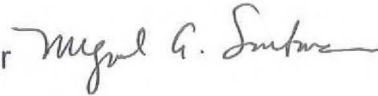
CAO File No. 0150-08905-0001

Council File No. --

Council District: ALL

To: The Mayor  
The Council

From: Miguel A. Santana, City Administrative Officer



Reference: Department of Animal Services Transmittal dated July 19, 2010

Subject: **DONATION FROM THE JASON DEBUS HEIGL FOUNDATION TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES TO HELP FUND SPAY/NEUTER  
SURGERIES IN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY**

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### SUMMARY

The Department of Animal Services requests authority to accept a donation of \$50,000 from the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation (JDHF) to be used to supplement the funding of targeted spay and neuter surgeries. Working with the JDHF, the Department proposes to launch a pilot project to target pit bull and pit bull mixes for spay and neuter surgeries in the Pacoima and Sylmar communities of the San Fernando Valley. If successful, this program will expand to include other zip codes with the highest pit bull and pit bull mix intake numbers in the City. The mission of the JDHF is to eliminate the needless suffering inflicted on animals by human cruelty, indifference, and ignorance with a primary focus on the greater Los Angeles area. In addition, the JDHF routinely funds the transport of Los Angeles area shelter dogs to states with greater pet demand and provides free spay and neuter procedures for the pets of qualified caretakers.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, authorize the Department of Animal Services to:

- 1) Accept the donation of \$50,000 from the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation (JDHF) to help fund the spay and neuter surgeries of pit bulls in the San Fernando Valley;
- 2) Deposit \$50,000 into the Animal Sterilization Fund Trust Fund No. 841, Department 6, Revenue Source Code 4512; and
- 3) Prepare Controller's instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There is no impact on the General Fund.

MAS:JLK:04110015

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KATHLEEN J. DAVIS  
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

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**Report to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners**

**Kathleen J. Davis, Interim General Manager**

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**COMMISSION MEETING DATE:** July 13, 2010

**PREPARED BY:** Anthony Sanchez

**REPORT DATE:** July 8, 2010

**TITLE:** Management Analyst II

**SUBJECT: Allocation of \$30,000 from the Spay/Neuter Voucher Program Funding;  
Acceptance of a \$50,000 Donation from the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation;  
Amendment Number 1 to the Agreement with The Amanda Foundation.**

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**BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

That the Board:

1. Authorize the Department to allocate \$30,000 from the Spay/Neuter Voucher Program funding to subsidize targeted sterilizations for pit bulls and pit bull mixes in specified zip codes as described in the body of this report;
  2. Accept a \$50,000 donation from the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation, subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council, to be deposited into the Spay/Neuter Fund and to be used to augment funding for the above sterilizations;
  3. Approve Amendment Number 1 to Agreement Number C-116573 between the City of Los Angeles and The Amanda Foundation (Amanda), substantially in the form as on file in the Board office, subject to approval of the Mayor and City Council, to allow Amanda to provide additional sterilizations as indicated below; and,
  4. Direct Staff to transmit the proposed Amendment to the Office of the City Attorney for approval as to form, and authorize the General Manager of the Department of Animal Services to execute the subject Amendment upon receipt of necessary approvals.
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**SUMMARY:**

On December 17, 2009, the City of Los Angeles executed an agreement with The Amanda Foundation (Amanda) to operate the Department-subsidized Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic, as approved by City Council on November 3, 2009 (Council File No. 09-1693). Through this Clinic,

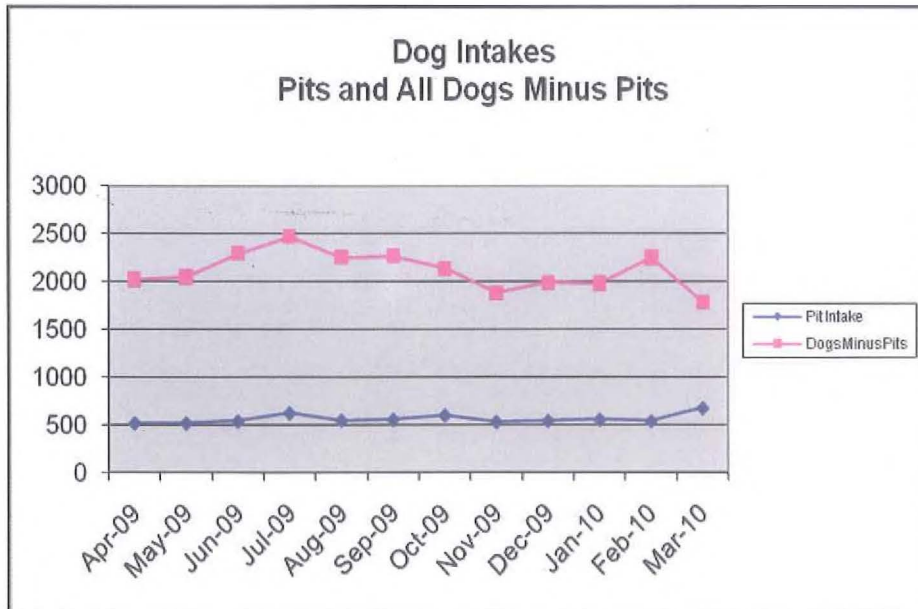
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the Department subsidizes free dog and cat sterilizations for low-income residents of Los Angeles (defined as those who meet the criteria of Very Low Income set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development).

Each fiscal year, the Department receives a General Fund appropriation of \$810,000 to the Spay and Neuter Trust Fund to subsidize free sterilizations for pets owned by low income Los Angeles residents, and discounted sterilizations for pets owned by Los Angeles residents of any income. Of this appropriation, \$500,000 is allocated to the Amanda contract to pay for approximately 6,000 pet sterilizations a year for low-income residents. The agreement includes controls to verify pet owners' eligibility, as funding must be restricted to pay for sterilizations of pets owned by those who qualify for this free service.

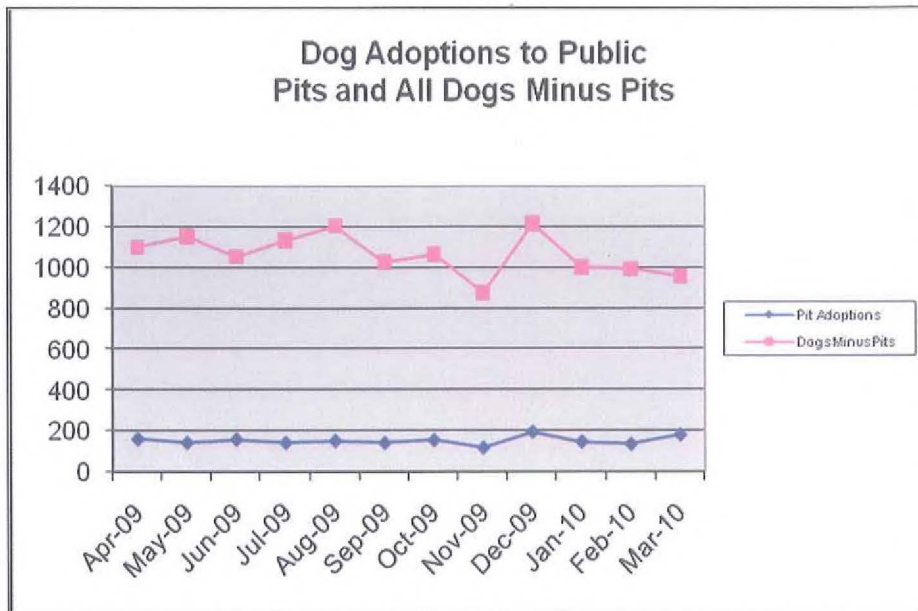
Funding all or part of sterilizations of any companion animals in the City, regardless of breed, through assistance to low-income City residents, is a core function of the Department. However, within the Department's Animal Care Centers, pit bulls and pit mixes dominate the breed of dogs which are taken in and which are euthanized. The intake and euthanasia numbers for this breed and its mixed breeds make up a disproportionately large part of the dog population we handle. The numbers have been consistent over years, despite a significant overall decrease in the number of dogs taken in and an increase in the number going home via adoptions, New Hope partners, redemptions, and transfers, which for June 2010 was 71% of all dogs taken in.

To illustrate, the charts below show a sample of intakes, adoptions, and euthanasia for the year ending March 2010. In that period, pit bulls and pit mixes were 21% of the dog intake, 13% of adoptions of all dogs, and 46% of all dogs euthanized.

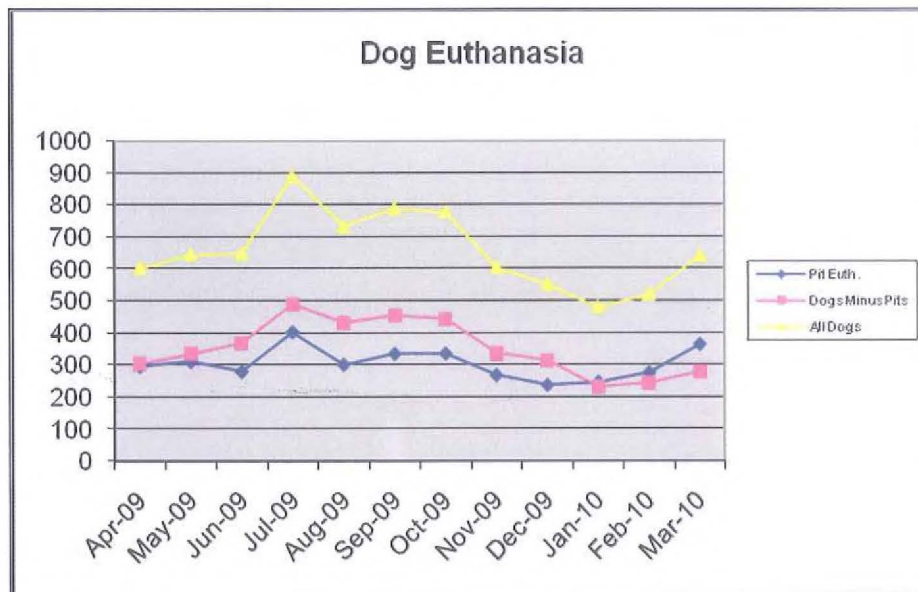


*This chart shows the lack of variability in pit bull intake despite fluctuations in the overall intake of dogs from month to month. Note that pit bulls generally have large litters.*

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*Rates for adoption to the public of pit bulls and mixes varies from 22% to 36% over the period, for an average of 27%. The number of non-pit bull dogs adopted out to the public is 58% of dogs taken in.*



*Pit bulls and pit mixes were 46% of the dogs euthanized in this one year study; in the first quarter alone they were 54%. The next highest breed which is euthanized is Chihuahua, at 8%. Looking only at time and space as a cause for euthanasia, pits and mixes were 77% of those dogs euthanized in the first quarter of 2010.*

However, pit bulls and pit mixes are not owned only by low-income residents in Los Angeles who meet the HUD Very Low Income criteria. Funding benefits to low-income Los Angeles residents is a critical and core function of the City of Los Angeles, but leaves a gap in addressing an overpopulation of dogs which is not income-specific. Directing additional resources to specific dog populations could close this gap and potentially have an equally critical impact in the Department's efforts to reduce euthanasia.

An opportunity to close this gap has been presented by the Jason Debus Heigl Foundation; working with the Foundation, the Department proposes to launch a pilot project to target this breed and mixes in several zip codes with the highest intake numbers in the City. The

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Foundation has proven their support of dog adoption efforts in both the City and the County through such programs as subsidy for spay/neuter to New Hope partners and support of special low income Community Spay Days. They now offer to help fund sterilizations of these breeds through a donation to the Department, which would be augmented by existing Department funding through the \$30 Voucher Program.

The following chart shows the top ten zip codes for impounds. Several similar pilot programs are currently in the planning stages with other providers also leveraging City funding with donations by outside foundations. Those proposals will be coming to the Board in the near future. This proposal will target zip codes 91331 (Pacoima) and 91342 (Sylmar) and provide free sterilization to any pit bull or pit mix.

Zip	Community	2008-2009	2009-2010*
91331	Pacoima	2,378	1,570
91342	Sylmar	1,942	1,208
90731	San Pedro	1,609	913
91335	Reseda	1,371	882
90011	Southeast LA	1,290	973
90042	Highland Park	1,120	670
91402	Panorama City	1,043	789
90744	Wilmington	1,041	760
90031	Lincoln Heights	1,028	609
90032	El Sereno	1,018	640
91605	North Hollywood	1,002	814

\* fiscal year through April 6, 2010

Amanda has indicated they are willing and able to provide sterilizations to these breeds and in these communities as additional funding becomes available. As Amanda’s agreement stipulates that services must be provided to residents who demonstrate they are low-income, it would be necessary to amend the agreement so that Amanda may provide additional, targeted services to designated breeds in specific communities, without compromising services to low-income residents. Therefore, the following amendment is recommended:

1. Section V, Scope of Services, is amended to read as follows.

**“Section V. Scope of Services**

The Contractor shall obtain, operate, and maintain a Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic from which the Contractor will provide free spay/neuter services for animals owned by low income, senior, and disabled Los Angeles residents; will provide all staffing, equipment, and supplies; and will obtain all permits, licenses, and registrations required to operate the Mobile Clinic.

Department may, from time to time, and upon prior mutual agreement with Contractor, suspend the requirement that pet owners must demonstrate that they are low-income, and allow Contractor to provide said services to Los Angeles residents of any income level, on the condition that, a) annual services to low-income residents, as set forth in this Agreement, are not reduced, AND b) services to non low-income Los Angeles

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residents are targeted to specific dog breeds, and specific communities of Los Angeles as defined by zip codes or other approved method, as mutually agreed with Department.

In particular, the veterinary services to be provided are as follows:"

2. Section V.C.5 is amended to add the following.

"In the event Department directs Contractor to provide sterilizations to targets breeds and areas as stipulated in Section V, Scope of Services, proof of the client's income shall not be required. However, proof of the client's residency shall be required as set forth herein to document that target communities are provided the services as intended."

All other terms and conditions of Amanda's agreement will remain in full force and effect, so the amendment will not change Amanda's obligation to provide up to 6,000 free pet sterilizations to low-income residents in Los Angeles, and will maintain the requirement that clients must show proof that they are residents of Los Angeles. It will, however, allow additional breed-specific and zip code-specific pet sterilizations by occasionally suspending the low-income restriction so that these breeds and communities are targeted as additional funding becomes available. Also, the amendment will not change the price of each sterilization which the Department already pays to Amanda under their Agreement.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funds are provided for public spay/neuter programs (\$30 and \$70 Vouchers and the Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic) through a combination of the General Fund allotment of \$810,000 and a surcharge on dog licensing of about \$600,000 a year. This pilot project will re-program \$30,000 (or 1,000 vouchers paid at \$30) that would otherwise be used for any random resident pet owner in the City and combines it with a \$50,000 donation. This project then matches the \$80,000 spay/neuter funding package to the breeds and zip codes that present a direct challenge to improving the City's euthanasia rates.

