



Voice For The Animals Foundation is devoted to creating respect and empathy for animals through education, rescue, legislation, and advocacy.

Sept 23, 2019

Dear Mr. Villaneuva,

On behalf of Voice For The Animals Foundation, we would like to express our support of the Council File #11-1678-S3 which is a motion to ensure that vegan protein options will always be provided with city food concessionaires.

These vegan protein options are vital to ensuring that the large (and growing) Los Angeles plant-based and vegan communities have healthy items to choose from when having meals out in their larger community.

These vegan options also provide a wider variety for everyone since anyone can eat vegetable-based food.

Furthermore, vegan and plant-based lifestyles are growing exponentially with more information confirming that plant-based eating is good for health and for the environment. This motion acknowledges and supports this progressive future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melya Kaplan".

Melya Kaplan
Founder/Executive Director
Voice For The Animals Foundation



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September 23, 2019

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

On behalf of Mercy For Animals, a global organization headquartered in Los Angeles, we urge you to support Council File 11-1678-S3, which has been presented by Councilmember Koretz and requires certain Los Angeles facilities and concessionaires to offer vegan protein options.

Mercy For Animals' mission is to construct a compassionate food system -- one that reduces animal suffering and is sustainable for our planet. At a time when the world's largest rainforest is being irreversibly destroyed to support industrial agricultural farming, policies that increase the availability of plant-based options are needed now more than ever. Animal agriculture is a leading cause of deforestation, land degradation, water pollution, and biodiversity loss and is too resource intensive to sustain the growing human population.¹ While scientists predict that two-thirds of people will live in water-stressed countries by 2025, 7.6 times more water is required to produce a calorie of beef than to produce a calorie of vegetables.²

Not only will the passage of this motion contribute to Los Angeles' sustainability by ensuring its carbon emission reduction goals are met, it will also benefit public health and the city's budget. The Oakland Unified School District pilot analysis, referenced within the motion, documented a 14% net reduction in carbon emissions over two years and annual savings of approximately \$42,000 simply by replacing animal-based meals with plant-based ones. Mercy For Animals' international Conscious Eating program has seen similar success in Brazil and Mexico, and has recently expanded to India.³

Mercy For Animals commends the City Council for considering this crucial motion, and remain committed to assisting in its implementation or lending any other expertise that may be helpful.

Sincerely,

AJ Albrecht, Esq.
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¹ United Nations Development Programme, Nature for Water, Nature for Life: Nature-Based Solutions for Achieving the Global Goals (New York: UNDP, 2018),

² Mesfin M. Mekonnen and Arjen Y. Hoekstra, "A Global Assessment of the Water Footprint of Farm Animal Products," *Ecosystems* 15, no. 3 (April 2012): 409.

³ <https://conscioseating.in/>