

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to increasing cooperation and partnership between the City and the equestrian community on the evacuation of horses and other large animals during emergencies.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. NOTE and FILE the November 9, 2019 and February 6, 2020 Department of Animal Services (DAS) reports relative to equine and large animal emergency evacuation procedures.
2. DIRECT the DAS to:
  - a. Report in regard to the establishment of a 24/7 on-call duty program similar to the Emergency Management Department and the Department of Recreation and Parks with said report to include any request for funding and/or positions necessary for the implementation of said program.
  - b. Update its Emergency Response Plan so that DAS standard emergency response procedures can be activated prior to a Mayoral declaration of local emergency and include use of the City's emergency notification systems.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DAS reports that there is no fiscal impact.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

**(Also referred to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee)**

Summary:

On February 12, 2020, your Committee considered November 9, 2019 and February 6, 2020 DAS and February 6, 2020 Emergency Management Department (EMD) reports relative to increasing cooperation and partnership between the City and the equestrian community on the evacuation of horses and other large animals during emergencies. According to the EMD, Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Division 8, Chapter 3 identifies the various Departments that make up the City's Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) and provides an overview of their respective roles and responsibilities. Specific emergency response, recovery and support roles are further detailed in the City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and related hazard and function specific plan annexes, appendices and standard operating procedures (SOPs).

LAAC Section 8.71 establishes an Animal Regulation Division of the EOO which is under and subject to the control of the DAS. The chief of this division is the General Manager of the DAS who is responsible for animal control during a local emergency. The DAS has been tasked to develop and arrange for shelter facilities for animals rendered homeless as a result of a local emergency. The General Manager has the power and duty to impound or direct the disposition of privately owned animals for the preservation of life and property during a local emergency.

In addition to the regular powers and duties of this office, during a period of local emergency as

proclaimed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council, the General Manager has the power and duty to direct such animal regulation and volunteer personnel as may be necessary to perform their duties. The LAAC, EOP and related plans task EMD with overall coordination of emergency preparedness, planning, response, recovery and mitigation for all hazards. For major brush fires that require evacuation of residents and animals this role includes activation and management of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and issuance of emergency mass alerts and notification to the public. The Los Angeles Fire Department serves as the field Incident Commander and Director of the EOC for these events. The Los Angeles Police Department provides support for the physical evacuation of affected areas. The Department of Recreation and Parks serves as the City's lead agency for overall emergency mass care and shelter operations which includes people as well as animals. These Departments, and others as needed, support and assist DAS with their mission to care for animals including the process of evacuating horses and other large animals. Since the La Tuna Fire of 2017, these departments have reviewed and revised their plans and procedures in order to improve processes, address gaps that were identified in each of the recent major brush fires, and ensure effective interagency coordination for future events.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the DAS reports and further moved to recommend directing the DAS to:

- a. Report in regard to the establishment of a 24/7 on-call duty program similar to the Emergency Management Department and the Department of Recreation and Parks with said report to include any request for funding and/or positions necessary for the implementation of said program.
- b. Update its Emergency Response Plan so that DAS standard emergency response procedures can be activated prior to a Mayoral declaration of local emergency and include use of the City's emergency notification systems.

This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
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RODRIGUEZ:	YES
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O'FARRELL:	YES
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BUSCAINO:	YES
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RYU:	YES
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LEE:	YES
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ARL

2/12/20

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**