



MICHAEL N. FEUER
CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. R 20 - 0039
FEB 04 2020

REPORT RE:

REVISED DRAFT ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 53.39.1 TO THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE THE EXHIBITION OF A WILD, EXOTIC OR DANGEROUS ANIMAL IN THE CITY, AND AMENDING SECTION 53.50 TO UPDATE ANIMAL PERMIT REGULATIONS

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 16-1357

Honorable Members:

On October 24, 2019, this Office transmitted a draft ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to add Section 53.39.1 to the LAMC. Section 53.39.1 would impose restrictions on the exhibition of a wild, exotic or dangerous animal in the City. The draft ordinance also would have amended Section 53.50 to update animal permit regulations.

After the transmission of the draft ordinance, at the request of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee, representatives of the Department of Animal Services and this Office met with animal welfare advocates and others impacted by the draft ordinance. As a result of the meeting, a revised draft ordinance was prepared which incorporates areas of agreement that were consistent with the City Council's original ordinance request. The enclosed revised draft ordinance replaces the version of the draft ordinance submitted on October 24, 2019 and is transmitted for your consideration, approved as to form and legality.

Several changes were made to the draft ordinance transmitted on October 24, 2019. The revised draft ordinance includes a definition for the term "Circus." The revised draft ordinance also limits the types of entities that qualify to, and the circumstances under which conservation or educational presentations may, exhibit a wild, exotic or dangerous animal. Additionally, the revised draft ordinance amends the definition of "Dangerous Animal" to include all animals that pose an inherent risk of harm to human health or safety because of the animal's strength, size, physical characteristics, instinctual behavior or risk of disease transmission.

Council Rule 38 Referral

A copy of the revised draft ordinance was sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Department of Animal Services with a request that all comments, if any, be presented directly to the City Council when this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Senior Assistant City Attorney Valerie Flores at (213) 978-8130. She or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By  for
DAVID MICHAELSON
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM:VF:ac
Transmittal