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April 20, 2017

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Richard Williams, Office of the City Clerk
200 North Spring Street, Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES PROPOSED 2017-18 BUDGET

The Department of Animal Services is pleased with the Mayor's proposed 2017-18 budget. We will be receiving the resources needed to reach our No-Kill goal and continue our support of homeless programs including pet services centers, spay/neuter surgeries of animals owned by our homeless pet parents, and sheltering resources for the pets of homeless individuals during an emergency. With our new strategic plan, we are developing new ways to do more with less so it is rewarding to have the resources needed to continue operating all six animal shelters in 2017-18. We will continue to support the relationships with our community-based partners, donors and volunteers to increase the service experience to the residents of Los Angeles.

The Department will continue to support the City by making our greatest effort to live within our means while providing life-saving services for animals, excellent customer service to the community, and ensuring public safety. The minimal staffing level for the Department established through Prop F was 428. The 2017-18 proposed budget funds 313 full-time employees, 26% below the Prop F minimal design level. Our current employment level is 315 so we will be reducing staffing slightly in order to stay within the salary savings recommended for the Department. We are confident we can reduce full-time staffing to 313 so that projected salary savings in our Salaries General account will be sufficient to cover anticipated structural shortfalls in most expense accounts including As-Needed, Overtime, Printing and Binding, Contractual Services, Medical Supplies, Office & Admin Expenses, and Operating Supplies.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the financial concerns we have for the upcoming year. We have no effective contingency or reserve fund. This budget limits our ability to absorb any new, unbudgeted, or unplanned reductions or respond in the event of a major emergency. If we were to absorb any further reductions outside of those already outlined in the Proposed Budget, we would face the prospect of closing one small shelter and euthanizing as many as 2,500 more animals.

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com

Even though funding for 24 Animal Control Officers has been removed from the 2017-18 budget, we are grateful for the continuation of the authorities. It is our goal to demonstrate the ability to hire eligible candidates in preparation to request restoration of funding of \$1,162,188 recently deleted from our 2017-18 budget. Hiring these critical positions will better ensure our presence in communities, enhance compliance with licensing and spay/neuter laws, and prevent or prosecute animal cruelty cases.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this letter on behalf of Animal Services and thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



BRENDA F. BARNETTE
General Manager

cc: Honorable Mitch Englander, Council District 12
Honorable Nury Martinez, Council District 6
Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Council District 3
Honorable Mike Bonin, Council District 11
Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor
Margaret Wynne, Office of the Mayor
Felicia Orozco, Office of the City Administrative Officer