



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Fwd: Support for LAAS Shelter at Home Policy Change 18-0130

1 message

Sharon Dickinson <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>
 To: Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Wed, Aug 15, 2018 at 7:22 AM

Sharon Dickinson, Deputy City Clerk
 Legislative Assistant for Council:
 - *Homelessness and Poverty Committee*
 - *Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity Committee*
 - *Public Safety Committee*

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From: **Kristen Stavola** <kristen@wearelaurelcanyon.org>
 Date: Tue, Aug 14, 2018 at 10:57 AM
 Subject: Support for LAAS Shelter at Home Policy Change 18-0130
 To: sharon.dickinson@lacity.org, David Hersch <david.hersch@lacity.org>
 Cc: Brenda Barnette <brenda.barnette@lacity.org>, james.bickhart@lacity.org, president@hhwnc.org, Orrin Feldman <ofeldman@pacbell.net>, area8chair@hhwnc.org, Stacy Sillins <s.sillins@nicholscanyon.org>, Catherine Landers <catherine.landiers@lacity.org>, Sarah Dusseault <sarah.dusseault@lacity.org>, Madelynn Taras <madelynn.taras@lacity.org>, commissioner.gross@yahoo.com

August 14th, 2018
 Sharon.Dickinson@LACity.Org
 Re: LAAS Sheltering at Home 18-0130

To members of the PAW Committee,

I write to you today with a request that you support the proposed changes that will allow LAAS to create a city-wide Sheltering at Home program.

Please consider all of the wonderful possibilities that this one small change to the LAAS found dog policy can enable.

I am a founder of the Laurel Canyon Safe Paws program. We are a group of over a dozen area volunteers with experience in animal rescue & rehab, behavior sciences & training, dog walking & pet sitting, veterinary care and more. We have been operating a Shelter at Home program for the last several years in Laurel Canyon and the surrounding hillsides. In the last 18 mos we have

reunited over 30 hillside residents with their beloved escaped pet. No stressful stay at the local shelter for pet, owner or the neighbor who finds the pet, no impact on already crowded shelters.

And our program provides an extended period of time for the owner of a lost pet to reclaim it before it legally becomes available for adoption through the shelters' 4 day hold period.

Safe Paws volunteers have helped find solutions for escape artists, dogs with separation anxiety and helped numerous residents adopt, find veterinary care, training and more. We've even worked with LAPD and social services to help elderly residents find assistance with their pets and in some cases re-home their pets when they've become ill or unable to responsibly care for a large pet (and helped find a more suitable pet for their lifestyle.)

We have volunteers equipped with microchip readers, temp ID tags, crates, dog beds, leashes and other supplies... we even have a dedicated vehicle to roam the hillsides on lost dog missions. Safe Paws volunteers are adept at creating and networking lost and found pet campaigns on the street and on social media. Being able to network found pets through the LAAS database is going to prove to be hugely helpful in communities throughout the City.

Safe Paws works closely with LAAS shelters on both domestic and wildlife issues that we face as a hillside community. The passing of this policy will allow volunteers for the Laurel Canyon Safe Paws program to meet with interested communities around the City and help them create similar programs. One of the easiest ways to do this would be by networking through LAAS New Hope Partners, City Council offices and Neighborhood Councils. In order to do this in accordance with LAAS rules and regulations, this policy change is essential. Safe Paws has created enormous good will in Laurel Canyon and surrounding hillsides and fostered a true sense of community.

Please support the Sheltering at Home program, there is so much good will in this City where animal welfare is concerned, let's organize it and make this City, truly, the most humane City in the Nation.

Respectfully,

Kristen Stavola
Laurel Canyon resident
Executive Director, We Are Laurel Canyon
Founder, Safe Paws
Board Member, Eastwood Ranch Foundation