



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Re: Council File 18-0350

1 message

mkleiman@quitam.org <markkleiman@gmail.com>

Sat, Jul 28, 2018 at 5:34 PM

Reply-To: mkleiman@quitam.org

To: David.Hersch@lacity.org

Cc: adam.lid@lacity.org

I write in support of Councilmember Koretz' bill to require that publicly funded housing projects permit tenants to have pets.

1. I have lived and worked in Venice for decades and know that the homeless problem will never be solved until the homeless who have pets can bring them with. I can't even begin to tell you how many times I have talked with people on or near the Boardwalk or other spots and have casually asked them about their shelter experiences -- only to learn that they are so bonded with their pets that they would never desert them for a place to live. This is of course the same thing we saw among the housed population during Katrina in New Orleans and Harvey in Houston.

2. Being poor is hard, with or without a home. Study after study has shown how a bond with an animal reduces PTSD among vets, helps stabilize and teach compassion to prisoners, etc. I am not comparing homeless people as a broad category with either of these groups, but the mammal-to-mammal bond that so many of us form can dramatically reduce stress and the response to it -- which is especially important for folks whose lives are hard enough to qualify them for public housing.

My sincere thanks to Councilmember Koretz for his championing of this bill.

Mark Kleiman

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