

*Jeffrey Mausner
Tarzana, CA*

April 28, 2018

Honorable Members of the City Council
Budget and Finance Committee

Re: **Council File 18-0600**, 2018-2019 Budget for the Department of Animal Services; **Please Maintain Funds Necessary to Prevent Killing of Healthy Adoptable Animals**

I am submitting this letter in support of increasing the budget of the Los Angeles Animal Services Department for fiscal year 2018-2019. **The proposed Animal Services budget is somewhere around \$24.5 million, out of an approximately \$9.8 billion City budget, (around one quarter of one percent) to care for all of the animals in the City, including 6 Animal Shelters.**

As set forth in the letter from the Animal Services Department to the Committee dated April 23, 2018, it is projected that the Animal Sterilization Fund will run out of money during FY 2018-19, eliminating spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners in the City of Los Angeles.

This would be tragic. After many years in which thousands of animals were killed in our Shelters for lack of space, the City of Los Angeles has finally reached No-Kill for dogs. In February 2018, the live save rate for dogs at Los Angeles City Shelters was 93.6%; for March 95.3%. This is a monumental achievement, for which Animal Services, City Council, and the entire City can be very proud. But this will be jeopardized if the Animal Sterilization Fund is depleted. **Decreasing the numbers of dogs and cats who are born is the basis for maintaining No-Kill. If spays and neuters decrease, in a few years, the Shelters will be killing dogs and cats again for lack of space.**

I've been a Volunteer at the West Valley Shelter since 2013. In the past years, hundreds of healthy, adoptable, lovable dogs and cats were killed simply because there was not enough space for them at our Shelters. It is absolutely heartbreaking to see that happen. For those of you who have dogs or cats, the animals killed in our Shelters were no different than our pets.

If spay/neutering decreases, the Shelters will become overcrowded, and we will be faced with that slaughter again. Housing and killing those animals will cost the City much more than the additional funds for the Animal Sterilization Fund.

Furthermore, it will be highly embarrassing for the City to have achieved No-Kill for dogs, and then lose that status simply because of lack of funding for spay/neuter.

If you have any doubts regarding the importance of maintaining the Animal Sterilization Fund, please view the following 3 ½ minute BBC video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHXF1cmX4KU>



[Dog Euthanasia - Louis Theroux's LA Stories: City of Dogs - BBC](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHXF1cmX4KU)

www.youtube.com

Louis visits the Animal Services Center, where they have to perform the difficult task of euthanasia. Subscribe to the BBC Studios channel: <http://www.youtube.com>

Attached hereto is a Resolution passed by the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) on September 26, 2017, which reads as follows:

14. Council File 17-0170 - Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Animal Welfare Committee's request to file a CIS in support of Council File 17-0170 re-affirming the City Council's goal to make Los Angeles a "no kill" city for all healthy adoptable shelter animals by December 31, 2017. The Animal Welfare Committee Chair is authorized to communicate this resolution to Brenda Barnette, Dana Brown and Louis Dedeaux of the Animal Services Dept., the Board of Animal Services Commissioners, and Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield.

The Animal Sterilization Fund is an essential element of attaining and maintaining No-Kill. I urge you to please replenish the Animal Sterilization Fund.

Also attached hereto are photos of some of the beloved dogs who were killed over the past few years at the West Valley Shelter for lack of space. Please do not allow this to happen again; please fully fund the Animal Sterilization Fund.

I also urge you to provide funding for the Animal Control Officers (ACOs), as set forth in the Department's letter of April 23. In my positions with the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, I am *constantly* receiving complaints from fellow Neighborhood Council Members and Residents about their inability to get animal control services (regarding coyotes, stray dogs and cats, animals in their yards, rat poison, injured animals, etc.). I know that the existing ACOs are mostly very hard working, and that the inability to provide services is because of the shortage of officers. Additional officers would provide essential services to the people and animals of the City.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters and helping to make Los Angeles No-Kill.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Mausner, Tarzana, CA

Jeffrey Mausner

(For identification Purposes)

Board of Directors and 2nd Vice President, Tarzana Neighborhood Council

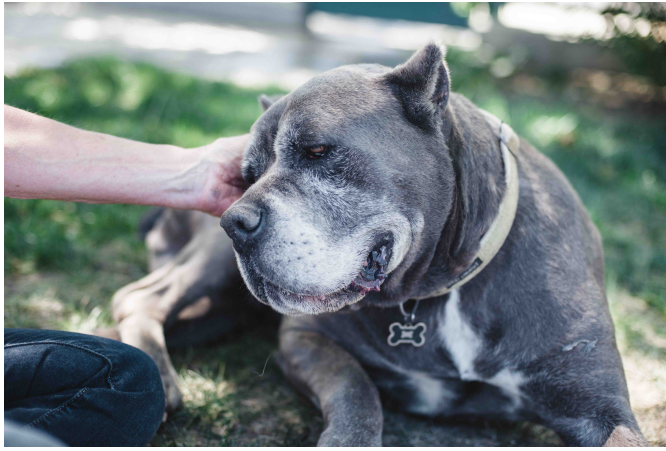
Chairman, Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee

Tarzana Neighborhood Council and Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Liaison to Los Angeles Animal Services Department

Volunteer, West Valley Animal Shelter

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Cleo, killed for lack of space, 2015



King, killed for lack of space, 2017



TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 26, 2017

Tarzana Elementary School Auditorium
5726 Topeka Dr., Tarzana, CA 91356

1. Call to Order by Len Shaffer, president of TNC at 7:15 p.m. Welcoming Remarks and Pledge.

Roll Call: David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Eran Heissler, Susan Lord, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Terry Saucier, Ken Schwartz, Len Shaffer, Richard Silverman, Jennifer Varela (left at 10:23 p.m.), and Esther Wieder. (Six absent: Pam Blattner, Elliot Durant, Barry Edelman, Max Flehinger, Joyce Greene, and Bob Schmaeff). Quorum established with 12 members.

2. Remarks by representatives of public officials:

Assembly Member Matt Dababneh thanked the neighborhood council for providing him with information on what's happening in the 45th Assembly District. Upcoming events: Oct. 5th, Senior Town Hall open to all ages at One Generation Senior Center on Victory Blvd. There will be speakers, health screenings, public preparedness updates and legislation that affects seniors. November 8, 2017, there will be a General Town Hall meeting with State Attorney General Buscera. His office will be hosting open office hours for anyone to meet him and talk about issues. He promised to always be accessible to stakeholders. He gave an update on the funding that was granted to Tarzana/Providence Hospital for seismic retrofitting and improvements to make it a state-of-the-art hospital. He is interested in making healthcare more affordable and accessible for all Californians. He discussed different legislation he's worked on to protect the environment, protect consumers from financial abuse, and to prevent puppy mills from operating within the state (AB485).

Svetlana Pravina from Councilman Bob Blumenfield's office gave a report: Sepulveda Basin will be sprayed for West Nile Virus on Sept. 27th, there will be a meeting on Oct. 12 for the improvements to the L.A. River bike path by the Department of Engineering. She gave an update on the Northridge power outage in July and how the Councilmember has asked LADOT to provide updates via text to customers when there

are power outages. She also talked about updates to the Ventura Blvd./Cahuenga Specific Plan.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins announced the open house on 10/28/17 West Valley Division. He gave crime stats for the previous month: 5 robberies, 2 aggravated assaults due to road rage, 5 motor vehicles stolen and 18 broken into, 12 thefts along the boulevard and 40 home break-ins. He then provided information on how thieves have been scoping out neighborhoods and the cars they use for burglaries.

Raffi Assadorian from the L.A. City Attorney's Office talked about a draft ordinance to regulate legalized marijuana stores. The ordinance would regulate taxing and other regulations on use.

3. Public Comments: Jasmine Barbery, DONE Rep. spoke about the 2018 election procedures.

4. Budget Advocate Report, Brian Allen (stood in for the regular Budget Advocate) saying they are developing committees to talk with individual departments and addressing a number of issues.

5. Presentation: Walter Foley of Food & Water Watch – (Jeff Mausner recused himself). This proposal would ban drilling and other oil field activities within 2500 feet of residential properties and other specified, high density locations in Los Angeles. He talked about the increase in malignant cancers in the Aliso Canyon area with two teachers there passing away. He pointed out that the toxic chemical used in these drilling operations damage the nervous system, endocrine and reproductive systems. People are getting sick and currently, regulations don't protect homeowners or residents in these areas. By having a setback distance it will avert some of the largest health impacts in high density areas.

6. (Heissler/Weider) moved approval of the minutes of August 22, 2017 meeting as revised. The motion carried.

7. (Goldberg/Lord) moved approval of August 2017 expenditures for submission to DONE (MER). The motion carried.

8. (Goldberg/Polonsky) moved approval of Financial Statements as of August 31, 2017. The motion carried.

9. (Heissler/Goldberg) moved, the TNC Board approves the Executive Committee's recommendation to appoint Susan Rogen to the open South Area Representative board position. The motion carried.

10. (Heissler/Wieder) moved, "Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Budget Committee's recommendation regarding the request from the Animal Welfare Committee to purchase a "Bone Pool," a wading pool for dogs, for the use by the Volunteers at the West Valley Shelter for to not exceed \$325." The motion carried unanimously.

11. (Goldberg/Silverman) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Budget Committee’s recommendation regarding the request from the Animal Welfare Committee to purchase a canopy for use of the Volunteers at the West Valley Shelter, in the backyard, for not to exceed \$325.” The motion carried unanimously.

12. (Goldberg/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: Based on approval of the above agenda items 10 and 11 the TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 as follows: General and Operational Expenditures \$10,080.00, Neighborhood Purpose Grants \$550 and Community Improvement Projects \$8,928.57, for a total budget of \$19,558.57.” The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Calendar: 13 – 16 & 18 & 20: The board voted to vote on these motions as a group (Susan Lord abstaining):

13. Council File 17-0002-S66 - Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Animal Welfare Committee’s request to file a CIS supporting Council File 17-0002-S66 regarding AB 1199 (the Pet Canine Encounters Protection Act), which will provide training to California peace officers about how to both quickly and safely respond to unexpected situations when encountering a dog, which invaluable training will give them the tools to protect themselves as well as the life of a treasured canine family member. The Animal Welfare Committee Chair is authorized to send a letter to Assemblymember Nazarian informing him of our support for the city’s position.

14. Council File 17-0170 - Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Animal Welfare Committee’s request to file a CIS in support of Council File 17-0170 re-affirming the city council’s goal to make Los Angeles a “no kill” city for all healthy adoptable shelter animals by December 31, 2017. The Animal Welfare Committee Chair is authorized to communicate this resolution to Brenda Barnette, Dana Brown and Louis Dedeaux of the Animal Services Dept., the Board of Animal Services Commissioners, and Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield.

15. Council File 17-0413 Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Animal Welfare Committee’s request to file a CIS in support of Council File 17-0413 directing the appropriate city departments to prepare an EIR to allow reconsideration of a proposed Citywide Cat Program that applies to all “free roaming cats” including feral cats and stray cats, utilizing the Project Description as detailed in the April 11, 2017 Department of Animal Services (DAS) report. The Animal Welfare Committee Chair is authorized to communicate this resolution to Brenda Barnette, Dana Brown and Louis Dedeaux of the Animal Services Dept., the Board of Animal Services Commissioners, Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield, and at public meetings for the scoping process.

16. Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Animal Welfare Committee’s request to support the use of all kennels at the West Valley Shelter, including the Training Kennels, Puppy Kennels, and kennels in the Grooming Room, before any healthy, adoptable animals are killed for lack of space at any of the City Shelters. The