

MOTION

Last Thursday, October 4, 2018 the County Department of Public Health published a News Release of reported cases of flea-borne Typhus in the downtown area. County officials advise that although flea-borne typhus typically occurs throughout the County several cases have been observed downtown. The County Department of Public Health's website has a variety of resources on the issue, and is as follows: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/VectorTyphus.htm>

The County advises that flea-borne typhus is a disease that infected fleas can be spread to humans by host animals and through their feces. Animals such as cats, rats and opossums can spread typhus as well as pets. Note that those animals do not get sick from Typhus but the County advises that people do and symptoms include high fever, chills, headaches, and rashes that can be treated with antibiotics. Typhus is not transmitted person-to-person.

The News Release states that the County is working with the City to implement environmental safety measures and the announcement lists best practices to help prevent the disease such as, securing trash, using flea control products on your pets, avoiding wild animals and taking protective measures with your clothing, such as tucking in your pants to socks or boots and spraying DEET insect repellent on your socks and pant cuffs.

Given that the City is partnering with the County, appropriate City staff, including the Department of Sanitation and the Animal Services Department should report to the Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils Committee to ensure the City is taking appropriate measures to address this public health issue for all downtown residents including the homeless on skid row and in the newly created El Pueblo Crisis and Bridge Housing site.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Sanitation, the Animal Services Department, and other departments as necessary, in cooperation with the County should report to the Health, Education and Neighborhood Councils Committee relative to the actions necessary to address the public health issue caused by Typhus in downtown Los Angeles. The Departments should address the following in their report to Council:

- Actions taken to address the disease
- Any necessary future actions such as additional street sweeping, including in areas of high concentrations of homeless individuals; and
- Ensuring that shelter residents with pets have access to needed medication

PRESENTED BY: _____

JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____

OCT 09 2018

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