

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to reviewing the design, functionality, sustainability, resilience and maintenance of the animal shelter system.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Koretz - Wesson):

DIRECT the Department of Animal Services (DAS), in conjunction with the Bureau of Engineering, Department of General Services, Information Technology Agency, Department of Recreation and Parks, and City Administrative Officer (CAO) and other entities or experts as may be appropriate, to undertake a thorough review of the design, functionality, sustainability, resilience and maintainability of the animal shelter system and other DAS equipment, with consideration given to the potential impacts of climate change, as well as the ability of any alterations to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the use of energy efficiency, renewable energy and reduction or elimination of fossil fuels; and, make recommendations as to how the facilities accordingly might be improved and how said improvements might be funded.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On January 16, 2019, your Committee considered a Motion (Koretz - Wesson) relative to reviewing the design, functionality, sustainability, resilience and maintenance of the animal shelter system. According to the Motion, in November 2000, Los Angeles voters overwhelmingly approved Measure F which provided nearly \$533 million in bond funding for a major upgrade of the City's fire stations and animal shelters. Over the course of the ensuing years, almost all of that funding has been expended on projects to modernize and expand the City's fire and animal care facilities.

In order to plan and implement its series of bond projects, the DAS undertook an effort to reconceptualize animal sheltering in Los Angeles. DAS staff conducted extensive research on design and operational issues which guided the creation of five new shelters and the upgrading of two shelters. Key among the concepts employed were sustainability and exposure of the dog kennel areas to light and air with an eye toward promoting the health and well-being of the animals who pass through them.

Subsequently, the evolving, and arguably growing, impact of global climate change has unleashed a series of record hot summer heat waves upon the City. The impacts of these heat spells, combined with the those relating to facility design, certain choices of equipment, and maintenance challenges, have led to situations in which shelter animals and staff have had to endure climatic extremes, equipment breakdowns and design inefficiencies and called into question whether the facilities can perform their intended purpose in an adequate manner.

As the climate continues to change and the shelters, despite the DAS' considerable progress toward achieving No Kill status, continue to house large numbers of animals, the City would be well served by undertaking a systematic review and study of steps that could be taken to make

adjustments in design and equipment that would provide a more healthful, sustainable and manageable shelter system in future years, and better comply with Goal 8, Actions 43 and 45 of the Resilient Los Angeles Plan. Further, such a study should include recommendations for how to finance such refinements as may be deemed useful or necessary. After consideration, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

SMITH: YES

PRICE: ABSENT

ARL

1/16/19

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-