

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jeffrey Mausner

**Date Submitted:** 05/02/2019 04:59 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Summary, Budget Advocates White Paper for L.A. Animal Services Department, pages 26-29, <http://ncbala.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/White-Paper-2019-Final.pdf>  
By Jeffrey Mausner, Budget Advocate, Region 3 After many years in which thousands of animals were killed in our City shelters for lack of space, the City has finally reached No-Kill for dogs. This is a monumental achievement, for which Los Angeles Animal Services Department (LAAS), the City Council, the Mayor, and the entire City can be very proud. But this accomplishment will be jeopardized if there is insufficient funding for spay/neuter programs -- the shelters will once again be killing dogs for lack of space. And the City has not yet gotten to No-Kill for cats. LAAS receives less than half a percent of the City Budget (about a quarter percent of the appropriated City budget), to provide protection and care of all animals in the City, including operation of the six City animal shelters. In order to achieve and maintain the Mayor's and City Council's goal of No-Kill, provide humane treatment for the animals in the City shelters, and provide adequate services to the public, the LAAS budget should be modestly increased to include the following: 1. Funding of Spay/Neuter. The annual transfer of \$1.1 million (approximately one ten thousandths of the City budget) from the General Fund to the Animal Sterilization Fund should be reinstated. This transfer did not take place for several years. To make up for years in which there was no funding or reduced funding of the Animal Sterilization Fund, additional funds may be necessary this year. SPAY/NEUTER IS THE KEY TO REACHING AND MAINTAINING NO-KILL. AS WELL AS BEING THE ONLY HUMANE WAY OF DEALING WITH THE OVERPOPULATION OF ANIMALS IN THE CITY, SPAY/NEUTER ALSO SAVES THE CITY A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY IN THE LONG RUN. IT IS MUCH CHEAPER TO SPAY/NEUTER DOGS, CATS, AND RABBITS THAN IT IS TO CARE FOR THE GENERATIONS OF OFFSPRING OF THOSE ANIMALS AT THE CITY SHELTERS AND ULTIMATELY HAVE TO PUT THEM TO DEATH WHEN THE SHELTERS RUN OUT OF SPACE FOR THEM. See Budget Advocates White Paper, pages 27-28. At this time (5-2-2019), it appears that LAAS is requesting an additional \$498,000 over what is in the Mayor's budget proposal. LAAS has determined that failure to provide this amount will result in 4,790 less spay/neuter surgeries in 2019-20 than in the current fiscal year. What does that mean? It means tens of thousands of additional unwanted animals in the streets of Los Angeles and in the City Shelters over the next few years. It means many more animals killed in car accidents on the streets, many more animals put to death in our shelters because of lack of space. I urge you to provide this funding, which LAAS has determined is necessary. 2. Personnel. The Budget Advocates' proposals relating to personnel, to help achieve and

maintain No-Kill, increase volunteer support for the shelters, and provide better services to the public, are set forth in the White Paper, pages 28-29. For example, in 2018 volunteers put in over 91,000 hours of service, the equivalent of 46 full-time employees; but the City and the animals are still losing out on thousands of free volunteer hours because of lack of adequate staffing. Increasing the number of volunteers and volunteer hours provides an exponential benefit of free labor to the City and improvement of quality of life for the animals, as well as improved and more efficient services for City residents patronizing the shelters. Recently, an Animal Care Technician (ACT) at each shelter was assigned to act as a Volunteer Liaison. This helped to increase the number of volunteers and volunteer hours. In order to continue that success, the Volunteer Liaison positions should be made permanent, and 6 additional Animal Care Technicians (ACTs) are needed to make up for the ACTs who have been designated Volunteer Liaisons. The same is true for the newly designated Life Saving Liaisons; those positions should be made permanent, and 6 additional Animal Care Technicians (ACTs) are needed to make up for the ACTs who have been designated Life Saving Liaisons.

3. Cost Savings: Adequately fund spay/neuter as discussed above (this will save the City tens of millions of dollars in the future); provide adequate staffing to increase volunteer hours.

4. Revenue: Increase collections of licensing fees through hiring canvassers; increase donations through the hiring of a Public Information Director. Please see Budget Advocates White Paper, pages 26-29, for further details and proposals. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Jeffrey Mausner (For identification purposes) Board of Directors and 2nd Vice President, Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) Chairman, TNC Animal Welfare Committee Neighborhood Council Liaison to LA Animal Services Dept Budget Representative and Budget Advocate Volunteer, West Valley Animal Shelter Email: [Jeff@MausnerLaw.com](mailto:Jeff@MausnerLaw.com)

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bill Watkins

**Date Submitted:** 05/02/2019 12:39 PM

**Council File No:** 19-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** 1. It's hard to trust managers of public money, who take so much of it personally. City Council members make \$178,000/yr, the mayor \$232,000, the LAPD chief around \$300K. Meanwhile, our communities suffer. 2. Define terms: is camping "homeless?" I think there is a difference there; right of ways and law should be upheld, all camping moved to designated areas. 3. Zoo should be privatized. Right now, it stands to garner more budget than Animal Services. This is wrong; our government should get out of the Zoo business, focus on safety and infrastructure. 4. Neighborhood Empowerment should be scrutinized for bureaucratic waste. With its \$5.1 million we could have about 224 fulltime minimum wage workers cleaning and securing our sidewalks. 16 per council district. Perhaps having one good government is better than many amateur ones fighting over 40K, supervised by NE staff at 50/60K! 5. Cultural Affairs: I love art, but all of this department should divert to neighborhood cleaning and maintenance. Art should not be publicly funded while our STORM DRAINS ARE CLOGGED. First things first!

# ***“CLEAN L.A.” PROPOSAL***



## **PROPOSAL SUMMARY:**

*That the L.A. City Budget reserve up to \$20,000,000 to employ up to 1000 Pedestrian Street Cleaners to be deployed every day to clean our sidewalks, parks, roads, gutters and storm drains; and to be a first line of defense against city problems, communicate them to proper agencies.*

## **PROBLEM:**

*TRASH and LITTER plague our city.*

At the same time, “Homelessness” is called a plague by many.

There are no current city jobs available on City Personnel webpage that a homeless or formerly homeless person can realistically get.

Public Works positions are car/truck based, and often respond to calls, instead of pro-active pedestrian surveys which could detect problems on the ground.

## SOLUTION:

I propose a fix to both by Creating a Job to be listed on City Personnel webpage, that even Homeless or formerly homeless people can aspire to get.

A simple, but Needed job to CLEAN our city, from cigarette butts and trash, to major dumping.

Pedestrian Street Cleaners could be equipped with cleaning tools. But also communication device(s) to report problems.

They could be a dynamic, helpful first line of defense against problems that ail our city streets/sidewalks/parks.

## COST:

\$19,200/year per Pedestrian Street Cleaner Hired. (\$10/Hour, 40hrs/week)

Goal of 1000 Pedestrian Street Cleaners proposed:

\$19,200,000/year. (\$19,200x1000)

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Of course, a Trial of hiring 50-100 Pedestrian Street Cleaners to test the viability of this Program would bring initial cost down to:

\$960,000 to \$1,960,000/year — (\$19,200x50 to \$19,200x100)

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT:

Environment Groups  
Homeless Activists/Homeless people  
Formerly Homeless People  
Resume-challenged Unemployed  
Any Organization Dedicated to Beautification of Los Angeles

**Key Legislators (Policy/Fiscal Committee Chairs, Etc.)**

**Huizar, Buscaino, Martinez, Cedillo, Blumenfield  
Job Creation Ad-Hoc Committee  
Budget Committee – Koretz, Krekorian, Englander**

## **ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT.**

*\*Everyone wins with Clean sidewalks, streets, Gutters, and DRAINS.*

\*Clean is SAFE

\*Pedestrian Cleaners could help the Community in many ways, including being a first line to report Problems to appropriate city agencies.

\*Clean is Healthy.

\*Low-level jobs can help the Homeless help us/help themselves!

## **ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION.**

None, unless someone can argue that funding a Zoo, Arts/Culture, non-emergency healthcare, and exorbitant city official wages/retirement benefits is more important than having a CLEAN city, maintained and cared for by hard-working, high impact pedestrians Every Day.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION.**

I am a formerly homeless alcoholic who loves to clean, dreams to live in a clean place.

I am unemployed, highly educated, but can never find anything on City Personnel job posting page that fits.

Then I walk our sidewalks and see disgusting trash/litter/dumping in every direction.

This proposal is from Common Sense and simple observing of an obvious problem.

## **PROPOSAL CONTACT:**

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