

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to conditions in all of the City's animal shelters during the 2019 rainy season.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE the January 10, 2020 Department of Animal Services (DAS) report inasmuch as this report is for information only and no Council action is required.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On January 15, 2020, your Committee considered a January 10, 2020 DAS report in response to Motion (Koretz - Blumenfield) relative to conditions in all of the City's animal shelters during the 2019 rainy season. According to the Motion, there was a recent social media post showing an incident at the Chesterfield Square Animal Shelter (SLA Chesterfield Square) where two large dogs were moved from individual large dog kennels to a soaked shared kennel in unsanitary conditions. It is already difficult to adopt out dogs from the shelter, and this difficulty is worsened by inadequate shelter conditions. When dogs are soaked and kept in these conditions, people struggle to see them as potential pets. One of the shelter's volunteers eventually remedied the situation, but this was not an isolated incident. Numerous social media reports regarding unsuitable conditions at City shelters have surfaced in recent weeks, and as the cold rainy season continues, it is imperative that the City's animal shelters can provide every animal with a clean, warm, and dry environment with a bed to rest on.

To address the concerns raised in the Motion, the DAS provided the January 10, 2020 report. In its report, the DAS notes that in regard to SLA Chesterfield Square, it has 218 large dog runs and 214 are equipped with beds. Over the years, there have been multiple projects to provide beds for all of the dogs who can have them without danger of chewing and swallowing fabric or bed parts that could cause serious digestive issues up to and including surgery. From time to time the DAS must replenish the beds and that has been in process thanks to the help of volunteers who are soliciting bed donations through Kuranda Beds and who are also assembling the beds for the dogs. During the holidays, people often choose to donate a bed for a shelter dog. On Thursday, December 5, 2019 after seeing the emails and social media posts with allegations about conditions at SLA Chesterfield Square, staff from the Mayor's Office made an unannounced visit to SLA Chesterfield Square Animal Services Center and found that the dogs had beds and the kennels were clean.

The DSA also provided detailed information in regard to addressing concerns about its other animal shelters and it was noted that all issues have been resolved. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the DAS report. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

LEE: ABSENT

PRICE: YES

ARL

1/15/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-