



April 24, 2020

Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee  
Office of the City Clerk  
Room 395, City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Council File No. 20-0600

Honorable Councilmembers:

*"Creating dynamic experiences to connect people and animals"*

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Vice President

Margot Armbruster

Christopher Hopkins

Daryl Smith

Richard Lichtenstein  
*ex officio member*

Denise M. Verret  
Chief Executive Officer  
& Zoo Director

The Zoo Department respectfully submits this correspondence for your information and consideration regarding the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Proposed Budget. The unprecedented situation of the COVID-19 pandemic that stands before us has impacted everyone in dramatic and unforeseen ways.

In compliance with the Mayor's *Safer at Home Order*, the Zoo closed its facility to the public on March 13, 2020. While the Zoo continues to staff essential operations on site with the priority of maintaining the health and well-being of our animals, as well as our staff, the fiscal impact from a complete revenue loss due to the closure has had a tremendous impact in the current fiscal year. Our closure will persist into the next fiscal year as we await guidance on the ability to reopen at a safe operating level.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget identifies \$14.9 million in the City's Unappropriated Balance to offset the projected revenue loss for Fiscal Year 2020-21 based on a three-month closure and a sixty percent revenue loss for the remaining nine months. The actual revenue loss will largely be dependent on the Zoo's ability to reopen and operate safely, as well as the public's response to returning to venues such as the Zoo. This funding needs to be available on July 1<sup>st</sup> in order for the Department to maintain its operations at the proposed budget level. As a result, the Zoo Department respectfully requests that the Budget and Finance Committee consider the following as a technical adjustment to the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Proposed Budget:

**RECOMMENDATION**

Appropriate \$14,924,000 from the City's Unappropriated Balance to Budget Fiscal Year 2020-21, Zoo Department No. 87, Zoo Enterprise Trust Fund No. 40E, Account No. 87T187.

The Zoo is hopeful that with the ability to slowly reopen and carefully manage attendance capacity, some revenue restoration will occur during the next fiscal year to minimize the impact to the General Fund. The Department is extremely appreciative of the support of the Zoo and will continue to work closely with the City in the ongoing recovery efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise M. Verret  
Chief Executive Officer & Zoo Director

DMV:MK



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