

**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

File No. 09-0632

Your PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE relative to prohibiting the purchase of animals on public streets or sidewalks in the city of Los Angeles.

Recommendation for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

PRESENT and ADOPT accompanying ORDINANCE amending Section 53.42 of Article 3, Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to prohibit the purchase of animals on public streets or sidewalks in the city of Los Angeles.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the City Attorney. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement Submitted: None

(The Transportation Committee waived consideration of the above matter.)

SUMMARY

Accompanying a report to Council dated June 16, 2011 (attached to the Council file), the City Attorney presents Ordinance amending the LAMC to prohibit the purchase of animals on public streets or sidewalks in the city of Los Angeles.

The City Attorney reports that the illegal sale of live animals, especially in the Santee Alley area of the Downtown Fashion District, is a growing problem. The purpose of the Ordinance is to augment the existing prohibition on the sale of live animals on public streets and sidewalks. The Ordinance will make it unlawful for any person to purchase, offer to purchase, barter or receive without cost, live animals on public streets and sidewalks. According to the Department of Animal Services, sales of animals on public streets or sidewalks contributes to the proliferation of homeless or unwanted animals that end up in the City's animal shelters. In addition, these animals are often held in substandard conditions, deprived of adequate food and water, and exposed to the elements.

The accompanying Ordinance allows enforcement of this measure by means of administrative citations in addition to misdemeanor charges. The penalties of \$250 for the first violation, \$500 for the second violation, and \$1,000 for the third violation are consistent with those in the administrative citations enforcement program.

At its meeting held July 11, 2011, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the Department of Animal Services and the City Attorney. The City Attorney's representative stated that the draft Ordinance allows for enforcement by any City of Los Angeles law enforcement officer. Also, the Ordinance can be applied citywide. During the public comment period, members of the public expressed support for the draft Ordinance.

The Public Safety Committee recommended that Council approve the accompanying Ordinance to prohibit the purchase of animals on public streets or sidewalks in the city of Los Angeles.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
CARDENAS:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
REYES:	YES
ZINE:	YES

JAW
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