

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

MOTION

Council adopted Ordinance No. 182309 on October 31, 2012 (CF 11-0754) adding Section 53.73 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), prohibiting the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores.

In addition, Council requested the City Attorney to draft an ordinance modifying the definition of kennel and pet shop in the LAMC to clarify that a pet shop need not obtain a kennel permit to comply with the new ordinance. On October 24, 2013, the draft ordinance was submitted to the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee and Ordinance No. 182816 with the above changes was adopted by Council on December 11, 2013 (CF 11-0754 S-1). Ordinance 182816 amended the definition of cat kennels, dog kennels and kennels found in LAMC Section 53.00 to explicitly exclude "pet shops" and "pet stores" (pet shops) and amended the definition of pet shops to allow for the housing of adult animals for sale without being considered a kennel.

The matter was also referred to the Planning Department which issued ZA-2013-3104-ZAI on October 30, 2013 (ZAI). The ZAI clarified that the definition of kennels found in LAMC Section 12.03 excludes pet shops that operate expressly in compliance with LAMC Section 53.00 and are lawfully permitted by the Department of Animal Services.

On February 10, 2014, a Writ of Mandate petition (BS14723) was filed in the case of "Daugherty v. City of Los Angeles" seeking to invalidate the ZAI and Ordinance No. 182816. The Los Angeles Superior Court upheld Ordinance No. 182816, but issued an order on May 27, 2015, directing the City to rescind the ZAI. In its ruling, the Court stated that the "City of Los Angeles Zoning Administrator's Interpretation which excludes "pet shops" from the definition of "kennels set forth in Section 12.03 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (No. ZA-2013-3104-ZAI) exceeds the Zoning Administrator's authority and is thus an abuse of discretion."

In light of the invalidation of the ZAI and in order to clarify that a pet shop need not obtain a kennel permit to comply with the new ordinance, the Planning Department should be directed to work with the City Attorney's Office to develop a methodology to address the zoning status of pet shops that operate in compliance with LAMC Section 53.00 and are lawfully permitted by the Department of Animal Services. This may include a draft ordinance amending the definition of kennels found in LAMC Section 12.03.

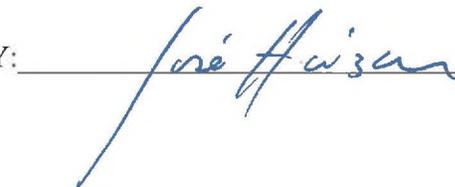
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney review the matter of "Daugherty v. City of Los Angeles," and make recommendations to the City Council on how the City should proceed with regard to implementation of ordinance 182309.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



JUN 30 2015

ORIGINAL