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BRENDA BARNETTE
GENERAL MANAGER

JOHN D. CHAVEZ
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

December 6, 2013

Council File: 12-1967
Council Districts: All
Contact person and phone:
John Chavez, 213-482-9558

The Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall

REQUEST TO ACCEPT \$50,000 ASPCA DONATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **AUTHORIZE** the General Manager, or her designee, of the Department of Animal Services to accept the Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) donation in the amount of \$50,000 to pay for New Hope adoption fees, subject to approval of the grant donation by the Mayor and City Council. The grant period is through January 2014;
2. **EXECUTE** the Grant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ASPCA on behalf of the City and submit all necessary documents relative to the grant award, subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality;
3. **AUTHORIZE** the Department of Animal Services to:
 - a. Deposit grant receipts in the Animal Sterilization Fund (Fund 842);
 - b. Spend up to the grant amount in accordance with the MOU;
4. **AUTHORIZE** the Controller to establish an appropriation account titled ASPCA New Hope Adoptions, account number to be determined, within Fund 842 for the receipt and disbursement of the ASPCA grant award; and:
5. **AUTHORIZE** the Department of Animal Services to prepare Controller's instructions for any technical adjustments, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize and instruct the Controller to implement the instructions.

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BACKGROUND

At its meeting of November 12, 2013, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners heard departmental recommendations to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). These funds would be used to offset the cost of the \$40 spay/neuter deposit of New Hope partners.

Best Friends Animal Society will complement this New Hope adoption effort by providing \$50,000. In total, these efforts will raise \$120,000. (A \$20,000 check was already received from ASPCA, \$50,000 from the ASPCA is addressed in this report, and the \$50,000 donation from Best Friends is addressed in a separate report.)

By a vote of 4-0, with one abstention, the Board approved a motion to accept this \$50,000 donation.

The Department was unable to get this report on the November 19, 2013 Personnel and Animal Welfare (PAW) Committee. This was the last PAW Committee scheduled before the end of the calendar year.

Because this report is time-sensitive, and City Council needs to act before the end of the calendar year, the PAW Committee agreed to waive this item. Moreover, the Mayor's Office agreed to waive Executive Directive 3 and allow this matter to be heard directly by the City Council.

THE "NEW HOPE" PROGRAM

There are 226 "New Hope" partners working with the Department of Animal Services. These 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations serve as rescue groups who adopt shelter animals and put them into homes. In 2012-13, New Hope partners adopted 6,662 animals.

New Hope partners are required to pay a \$40 spay/neuter deposit. (Los Angeles-based New Hope organizations are required to pay a \$5.50 tax, in addition to the deposit.) This deposit is used to sterilize an animal -- as required by state law -- before an animal is released from the shelter.¹

To spur adoptions from New Hope partners, the ASPCA and Best Friends Animal Society are willing to pay for the \$40 adoption costs. This initiative began in October and ends in January 2014.

¹ The City Council voted on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 on a change to the \$40 spay/neuter deposit arrangement, to increase this to a \$50 flat-fee that can be used for sterilization, microchips, and/or vaccinations (C.F. 13-1190). The Municipal Code still needs to be modified to effectuate this Council action.

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INITIATIVES TO INCREASE SHELTER ADOPTIONS

At the October 8, 2013 Board of Animal Services Commission meeting, the General Manager was pleased to announce that the ASPCA recently donated \$20,000 to the Department to pay for adoption fees for New Hope rescues. Because the amount was under \$25,000, the General Manager was able to accept the check without Board/City Council approval. However, at this same meeting, she indicated that ASPCA may provide additional funding. Since that Board meeting, this promise of additional funding has turned out to be the case. Due to the amount, \$50,000, Board and City Council approval is needed.

To add to this good fortune, Best Friends Animal Society, which currently operates an adoption/spay-and-neuter clinic at the City's Northeast Valley shelter, will complement the ASPCA's grant by paying for New Hope adoptions as well.

Best Friends is pledging \$50,000 to increase New Hope-related adoptions. *Because this amount is over \$25,000, the Department will request authority to accept this in a separate report.*

To maximize the use of these donations, these adoptions subsidies will be structured in the following manner:

1. Best Friends will pay the New Hope adoption fees for those rescue groups who are part of the "No-Kill LA" coalition. (There are 49 New Hope partners who are members of this coalition.)
2. The ASPCA will pay the New Hope fees associated with all other rescue groups.

In 2012, Best Friends kicked-off the "No-Kill LA" (NKLA) initiative. This coalition of animal welfare organizations, city shelters and individuals is dedicated to ending the killing of healthy and treatable pets in Los Angeles shelters. The goal of NKLA is for 2017 to be the year when 85 - 90% of dogs and cats entering shelters leave alive.

Based on prior year New Hope adoption figures, the cost to pay for Best Friends' NKLA "coalition" adoptions from October 2013 through January 2014 is expected to be \$22,000. ASPCA is estimated to pay \$57,000 during this same period.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approval of the recommendations in this report will provide \$50,000 in funding to the Animal Sterilization Fund. Acceptance of the grant will have no impact on the General

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Fund and is in compliance with the City's Financial Policies in that grant funds and currently budgeted funds will cover the cost of the program.

John H. Chavez

BRENDA BARNETTE *for*
General Manager

Cc: Patricia Whelan, Office of the Mayor
David Hersch, Council District 5
Dov Lesel, Assistant City Attorney
Ross Pool, Department of Animal Services
File