

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the status of the Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACTF).

Recommendations for Council action:

1. NOTE and FILE the January 22, 2014 Police Commission report relative to the status of the ACTF.
2. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), in cooperation with the Department of Animal Services (DAS) and City Attorney, to report to Council on a yearly basis with a status report that updates the structure and operational activities of the ACTF to include:
 - a. The specific number of investigations, arrests, and prosecutions.
 - b. A priority listing of areas of the City where the ACTF's services are needed most and the resources required to address those needs.

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

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On November 8, 2014, a Motion (O'Farrell - Koretz) was introduced directing the LAPD, in cooperation with the DAS and the City Attorney's Office, to prepare a status report that updates the structure and operational activities of the ACTF and includes the specific number of investigations, arrests and prosecutions, and a priority listing of areas of the City where their services are needed most and the resources required to address those needs. Subsequently, on November 19, 2013, your Committee considered the above Motion and after consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, moved to continue the matter pending receipt of a report from the LAPD.

On February 4, 2014, your Committee considered a January 22, 2014 Police Commission report in response to the above Motion. According to the LAPD, on July 1, 2005, the ACTF was established and composed of two LAPD detectives and six Animal Control Officers from the DAS. The Commanding Officer, Planning and Research Division, and Office of Support Services, were assigned to directly oversee and coordinate the operation of the ACTF. On January 3, 2010, ACTF was reassigned to Detective Support and Vice Division (DSVD), which also manages the Mental Evaluation Unit.

The ACTF is currently composed of four LAPD detectives, one Police Officer, and one Animal Control Officer. Currently, the ACTF has one vacant detective position. Since its creation, the ACTF has evolved due to the violent criminal nature associated with animal abuse. As a result, the ACTF has increased the number of detectives over animal control officers compared to 2005. The focus of ACTF has been to prioritize animal abuse cases pertaining to public safety concerns. Many of the cases investigated by ACTF involve violent individuals with mental illness. These cases often lead to other forms of violent criminality such as domestic violence, child abuse, or aggression directed at

members of the public. The ACTF works in partnership with the LAPD's Mental Evaluation Unit to help identify and prevent at-risk behavior, as well as the Department of Children and Family Services when a minor is involved.

The DAS continues to perform a vital role in the ACTF. Their veterinarians provide Forensic/medical examinations and complete medical reports that are needed to obtain a criminal filing. Also, the DAS facilitates animal abuse investigations through their animal control and humane law expertise. Animal abuse or humane cases that do not meet the criteria for an ACTF investigation are referred to the DAS for appropriate action.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the January 22, 2014 Board of Police Commissioners report. Additionally, the Committee moved to recommend directing the LAPD, in cooperation with the DAS and City Attorney, to report to Council on a yearly basis, as detailed in the above recommendations. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

O'FARRELL: YES

FUENTES: YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-