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December 6, 2013

Council File: 13-0600-S3  
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 BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY DONATION**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. AUTHORIZE the General Manager, or her designee, of the Department of Animal Services to accept the Best Friends Animal Society funds in the amount of \$50,000 to pay for New Hope adoption fees. The grant period is through January 2014, subject to approval of the grant donation by the Mayor and City Council;
2. EXECUTE the Grant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Best Friends Animal Society 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 a grant receipts in Fund 842 and establish an appropriation account titled Best Friends New Hope Adoptions, account number to be determined, within Fund 842 for the receipt and disbursement of the Best Friends grant award; and:

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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.

### SUMMARY

At its meeting of November 12, 2013, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) approved departmental recommendations to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Best Friends Animal Society. These funds would be used to offset the cost of the \$40 spay/neuter deposit of New Hope partners who are part of the "No-Kill LA" coalition.

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.

### BACKGROUND

The Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) will join Best Friends in this effort to increase New Hope adoptions effort by providing \$70,000. (The ASPCA's donation is discussed in a separate report.)

The Department of Animal Services seeks approval to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with and accept a \$50,000 grant from Best Friends Animal Society. These funds would be used to offset the cost of the \$40 spay/neuter deposit of New Hope partners who are part of the "No-Kill LA" coalition (discussed below).

### 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.

These 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.)

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This deposit is used to sterilize an animal -- as required by state law -- before an animal is released from the shelter.<sup>1</sup>

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

**INITIATIVES TO INCREASE SHELTER ADOPTIONS**

Best Friends Animal Society, which currently operates an adoption/spay-and-neuter clinic at the City's Northeast Valley shelter, is pledging \$50,000 to increase New Hope-related adoptions. Because this amount is over \$25,000, both Board and City Council authority is required to accept the donation.

When combined with the ASPCA's donation (\$70,000), there is \$120,000 dedicated to increase shelter adoptions via New Hope partners. To leverage this six-figure total, these 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 fees associated with all other New Hope 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 shelter leave alive.

The plan is to provide spay/neuter services where they are needed most and increase adoptions through the combined efforts of the NKLA coalition. Best Friends provides grants to coalition partners for every pet they adopt to a new home over the number they adopted last year, as well as funding spay/neuter projects for pet owners who can't afford to have their pets fixed. (For more information, see Council Files 13-0600-S2 and 13-0600-S3.)

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.

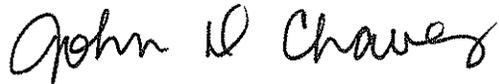
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<sup>1</sup> The City Council voted on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 on a change to the \$40 spay/neuter deposit arrangement to a \$50 flat-fee that can be used for sterilization, microchips, and/or vaccinations. (C.F. 13-1190). The Municipal Code still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

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**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 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.



**BRENDA BARNETTE**  
**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