

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to amending Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) Section 5.199 to prohibit expenditures from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund for staff salaries and benefits not directly related with the specific services described in LAAC Sections 5.199b and 5.199h.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Koretz - Huizar):

REQUEST the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance to amend LAAC Section 5.199 to add language preventing any expenditures from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund from being used for staff salaries and benefits which are not directly connected with the delivery or performance of the specific services described in LAAC Sections 5.199b. and 5.199h.

Fiscal Impact Statement: 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 June 5, 2019, your Committee considered a Motion (Koretz - Huizar) relative to amending LAAC Section 5.199 to prohibit expenditures from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund for staff salaries and benefits not directly related with the specific services described in LAAC Sections 5.199b and 5.199h. According to the Motion, the City's Animal Sterilization Fund (Fund) was established in the LAAC to support spay/neuter activities that help the City reduce pet overpopulation and shelter euthanasia. This Fund receives monies from a portion of the receipts from dog license sales as well as General Fund monies. According to LAAC Sections 5.199b and h, monies from the Fund may be used to provide pet sterilization services to City residents who meet applicable program eligibility requirements, and for dogs, cats and rabbits adopted from City animal shelters by other persons. Monies may also be authorized for establishing and financing a public education program to prevent overpopulation of dogs and cats; a follow-up program to assure that animals sold or given away by the Department are spayed or neutered; and for any additional costs incurred by the City of Los Angeles because of the enactment of California Food and Agriculture Code Sections 30503 and 31751.

In the past several years there have been instances when monies from the Animal Sterilization Fund have been used to pay the salaries of staff whose duties include tasks and activities beyond those directly related to meeting the requirements outlined above. This has strained the ability of the Department of Animal Services to meet its annual spay/neuter goals. Additionally, it promises to make meeting expected future increases in the number of surgeries needed more difficult, if not impossible. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES

SMITH: ABSENT

PRICE: YES

ARL

6/5/19

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-