

MOTION

Many neighborhoods in the San Fernando Valley have a long tradition of equine keeping. This tradition is embraced to this day and continues to contribute to the very distinctive character and quality of life of these neighborhoods. The City must continue to establish policies that preserve and encourage the legacy of equine keeping in its communities.

The Municipal Code contains very specific land use regulatory controls that govern equine keeping in the city. Portions of equine keeping neighborhoods in the city are also located within designated "K" Equinekeeping Districts which may be established by the Council to allow more permissive and accommodating regulations for the keeping and maintenance of equines. When established in the appropriate areas, "K" Districts further enhance the ability to establish and preserve equine keeping in the city.

In addition to Equinekeeping "K" Districts and prescribed regulations, an important part of promoting the vibrancy of equine keeping communities is expanding the public equestrian trail network. To this end, it would behoove the city to enact equestrian trail standards citywide to provide consistency in the imposition, construction and maintenance of required trails. However, it is important to recognize that given the still rural nature of many equestrian communities, the strict application of standards may not always be feasible. Therefore, standards should also include more flexible parameters to account for site variables and community specific needs (ie. railing types, meandering widths to preserve natural features, slope and drainage management).

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department, the Bureau of Engineering, and the Department of Recreation and Parks, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report with recommendations, and the feasibility of an ordinance, to enact equestrian trail standards that include more flexible parameters to account for site variables and community specific needs.

PRESENTED BY: John S. Lee
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