

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR, PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE and BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the temporary waiver of redemption fees for low income City of Los Angeles residents negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. AUTHORIZE a temporary waiver of redemption fees for low income City of Los Angeles residents negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. INSTRUCT the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to:
 - a. Implement a temporary waiver of redemption fees for low income residents negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic upon City Council's approval.
 - b. Report the number of redemption waivers granted and their associated costs on a monthly basis through the DAS's monthly Financial Status Reports.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DAS reports that approval of this request will impact General Fund revenue at an estimated cost of approximately \$20,000 to \$100,000, based upon the number of requests received and the duration of the pandemic; however, waiver costs are off-set by daily care and feed cost savings for pets not redeemed and held for over two days.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On August 19, 2020, the Chair of the Personnel and Animal Welfare (PAW) Committee considered an August 11, 2020 DAS report relative to the temporary waiver of redemption fees for low income City of Los Angeles residents negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the DAS, it is requesting authorization to temporarily waive redemption fees, on a one-time only basis, for low income residents negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The one-time waiver would be available to City of Los Angeles, low income pet owners who are 18 years and older. Income eligibility and self-certification of income would follow the same criteria and process as that used for the issuance of free spay/neuter vouchers. Prior to the waiver of redemption fees, the owner will be responsible for payment of all mandatory and outstanding licensing and microchip fees. Low income residents will be responsible for payment of all subsequent redemption fees in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 53.12. It is estimated that redemption fee waivers will cost approximately \$20,000 to \$100,000 based upon the number of requests received and the duration of the pandemic - see below. These costs are offset by savings realized from the redemption of animals through daily care and feed costs for animals not redeemed and held for over two days. After consideration, the Committee Chair moved to recommend approval of the recommendations contained in the DAS report and detailed in the above recommendations. Subsequently, on August 24, 2020, the Budget and Finance Committee also considered this matter and after having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to concur with the Chair of the PAW Committee. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ, CHAIR
PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

KORETZ: YES
LEE: ABSENT
PRICE: ABSENT

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER VOTE

KREKORIAN: YES
PRICE: YES
KORETZ: YES
BLUMENFILED: YES
BONIN: YES

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8/24/20

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-