

**MOTION**

Over the last year, the City has been grappling with ensuring the well-being of the ponies at the Griffith Park Pony Rides—which have been a staple of the recreational activities available to children and families at Griffith Park since the 1940s. After receiving numerous complaints from animal advocates about the health of the ponies, the Department of Recreation and Parks engaged a third-party equine expert to inspect the Pony Rides and assess the health and condition of the ponies and the current Pony Rides concessionaire's adherence to applicable state and federal animal welfare statutes.

In December of 2021, the City Council instructed the Department of Recreation and Parks to report back to the Council on the findings of the third-party equine expert assessment. While the expert did not find evidence of egregious animal welfare abuse or neglect, their investigation concluded that the operator was in violation of various animal welfare state laws, including the requirement to maintain up-to-date health records for each animal.

Following the investigation, the operator of the Pony Rides committed to maintaining proper records for each animal including updating its policies and practices for the care of the animals during times of extreme temperatures, making facility improvements for better protection from environmental elements, and ensuring greater public transparency regarding how the animals are cared for, among other commitments. While some of these improvements have been made, the City continues to receive complaints regarding the lack of implementation of other critical measures that would ensure the well-being of the ponies.

The concession agreement with the current operator of the Pony Rides is set to expire on December 22, 2022, with the option of renewing for another year. While the decision to extend this contract falls within the jurisdiction of the Department of Recreation and Parks and does not need approval from the City Council, at this time, we do not believe the City of Los Angeles can in good faith move forward with the extension of this contract without understanding the implications this will have on the health and well-being of the ponies and without considering a new path forward that does not include the continued use of these ponies for entertainment.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to report in 15 days on the findings of the assessments conducted by the third-party equine veterinarian and possible next steps based on the findings, including withholding any further extensions of the contract with the current operator to operate the Griffith Park Pony Ride concession beyond December 22, 2022.

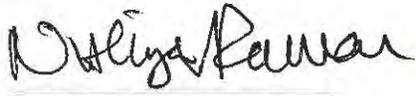
**I FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council instruct the Department of Recreation and Parks to report to Council on a process to move the City away from the operations of the Griffith Park

C7-3-2022

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Pony rides, if the conclusion is made that this contract will not be extended. This report should include the potential of replacing the pony rides with a different model that is rooted in the humane treatment of animals and that continues to give children from low-income families the opportunity to interact, care and learn about horses at an affordable cost.

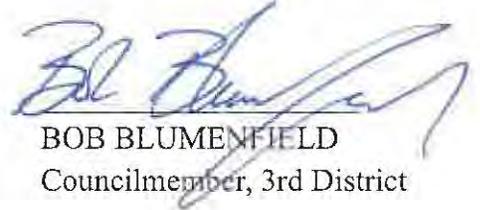
PRESENTED BY:



NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

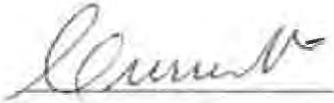


PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5th District



BOB BLUMENFIELD  
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



**ORIGINAL**