

**MOTION**

The Griffith Park Pony Rides have been a staple of the recreational activities available to children and families in Los Angeles since the 1940s. The facility has undergone extensive repairs and maintenance over the last decade and has incorporated new features and improvements allowing families to enjoy farm animal exhibits and host private birthday parties for children. The pony rides have undoubtedly provided many Angelenos unforgettable childhood memories.

Over the last few months, the City has received numerous concerns regarding the health and well-being of the horses at the Griffith Park Pony Ride facility. The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) and the Department of Animal Services have continuously gone out to inspect the facility and have found no violations. In response to the concerns brought forth by residents and animal rights' groups, however, RAP has initiated a process to bring on a third-party equestrian expert to review and report on the policies and practices of the operation to ensure the horses are being well cared for. It is imperative that the City take these concerns seriously and consider this an opportunity to reassess what this operation will look like if the City decides to continue its operation.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Department of Recreation and Parks report back to Council on the findings of the third-party equine expert assessment, when that report has been completed, and provide recommendations on:

- Any necessary changes to the operation of the pony rides to ensure the health and well-being of the horses;
- Potential changes to the current concession agreement or consideration of a new concession agreement, if necessary, that will enable a more transparent and humanitarian approach for the operation of the rides;
- Benchmarking research on how comparable cities deal with the use of horses for entertainment; and
- Changes and improvements to the inspection process as administered by RAP including the potential use of a third-party equine expert to be responsible for inspections of the horses' health; and


**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Department of Animal Services report back to Council within 45 days on their inspection process, including:

- A detailed description of the process of annual inspections for the concessionaire's annual permit;
- The protocols and procedures for animal control inspections that arise when a complaint is filed; and

DEC 0 8 2021  
~~DEC 0 7 2021~~



- Any recommendations for improvements to these inspections to ensure the health and well-being of the horses at Griffith Park.

PRESENTED BY:   
NITHYA RAMAN  
Councilmember, 4th District

CO-PRESENTED BY:   
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL