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**DEPARTMENT OF
ANIMAL SERVICES**

221 N. Figueroa Street
6TH Floor, Suite #600
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(888) 452-7381
FAX (213) 482-9511

ANNETTE G. RAMIREZ
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

CURTIS R. WATTS
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Administration

DR. JEREMY PRUPAS
CHIEF VETERINARIAN

March 20, 2025

Council File No.: 23-0632
Council Districts: All
Contact person and phone:
Annette Ramirez (213) 482-9558

The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Eric Villanueva, Legislative Assistant

**SUBJECT: CF NO. 23-0632 - DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SERVICES REPORT ON
REPURPOSING THE AVIARY SANCTUARY LOCATED AT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
HARBOR ANIMAL SERVICES CARE CENTER**

Recommendation for Council Action:

NOTE AND FILE this report as this report is for informational purposes only.

SUMMARY

The Harbor Animal Services Care Center is located in San Pedro and is the one city-run shelter that services constituents in the South Bay region. Currently, an aviary, or bird sanctuary, onsite exists as a designated area for birds residing in the shelter. The sanctuary generally remains largely underutilized. Council requested the Department of Animal Services in consultation with the General Services Department and the City Administrative Officer to report back with an estimate on the cost of repurposing the aviary sanctuary and any additional modifications to expand capacity to serve the facility's functional needs.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Animal Services operates six animal service centers located throughout the City of Los Angeles. Each shelter location has its own unique functional challenges due to the physical

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layouts of the facilities. Department representatives have met with representatives from Council District 15 on several occasions to discuss how the Harbor Animal Services Care Center can best be served by repurposing the aviary sanctuary. While it is acknowledged that the City's shelter facilities are often over-capacity with animal inventory, it is the Department's mission to try and find loving homes for the animals that come into our facilities. The Department prioritizes reducing the inventory through helping customers find pets that would be a great fit for their households through adoptions. The objective is not to increase our facilities' capacities to maintain additional animals.

The Harbor Animal Services Care Center is one of the City's smallest shelter facilities. The location notoriously has very limited parking spaces for potential visitors. The Department has learned through anecdotal feedback that customers are often turned off from coming to the facility due to a lack of parking. In an effort to increase visitation and encourage adoptions, the Department feels that the location would be best served by repurposing the aviary sanctuary to increase the amount of parking spaces at the location.

In understanding this, the Animal Services Department's Facilities Manager worked with the General Services Department (GSD) to obtain an estimate for the work required to repurpose the aviary sanctuary. On August 1, 2024, GSD provided a Rough Order of Magnitude estimate for the project totaling \$980,805. It is estimated that the project would yield five to eight additional parking spaces (including the required accessible spaces).

The Department can work with the Office of the City Administrative Officer to find available funding for this project and coordinate with GSD to update and finalize the estimate and project plans.

Respectfully submitted,



Annette G. Ramirez
Interim General Manager