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## Council File Number: 25-0600

1 message

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**Laura Ciccone** <laciccone@gmail.com>  
To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 12:09 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

As a resident of Los Angeles, I'm <writing/commenting> to share my frustration with the proposed shelter closures and cuts that will decimate LA Animal Services.

Our city shelters have already been overcrowded, understaffed and filled with underfed animals. According to shelter volunteers, dogs are also being inhumanely euthanized, with staff no longer providing tranquilizers and injecting heart-stopping chemicals directly into alert, awake dogs to save time. With these further cuts, the remaining shelters will be little more than slaughterhouses, and Los Angeles will quickly reach the high kill rates of areas like Hesperia and states like Texas. Furthermore, reports of abuse, neglect and hoarding will be left unaddressed as the department will lack the manpower to investigate them.

However, this is not just an animal welfare issue but a public safety issue. We have already seen the results of budget and staffing cuts at county animal shelters during the pandemic: county shelters simply stopped accepting animals and stopped responding to stray dog reports, leading to an increase of stray dogs in the streets. With the mayor's planned cuts, kids walking home from school, children playing in their front yards, and adults who fear dogs will all be at increased risk of dangerous dog encounters with no one to call for help.

The 2025-2026 budget contains large increases for fire and police services. Even a small reduction to these planned increases will allow us to retain another public safety service that is critical for pets and people alike.

Thank you,

Laura Ciccone