

13-0345-S1

APR 3 2013

MOTION

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE
BUDGET & FINANCE

Since 2005-06, the Department of Animal Services (ASD) has experienced a 167% increase in kennel and cage space capacity at its shelters, however, staffing to monitor that capacity, and to care for the animals housed within, has only increased 12%. In 2005-06 the Department employed 120 Animal Care Technicians (ACT) for 759 kennels and cages. Today, ASD employs 134 ACTs for 2,029 kennels and cages. ASD reports that this staffing imbalance has become a safety issue for its employees and impacts the level of service the Department provides. For example, ASD advises that one employee recently walked 9 to 13 miles a day while on duty. The Department has also experienced increased complaints about shelter cleanliness, inability to answer phone calls from the public, and difficulty locating staff to show animals to potential adopters or to assist rescue partner groups.

The City Administrative Officer states that staffing across ASD has been reduced 21% since 2009-10 which is greater than the Citywide Department average of 14.4%. The Department also contends that it only has enough employees to staff four shelters, and therefore, in response to the safety and service provision challenges, ASD recently proposed moving all of its 16 nighttime ACT workers to daytime shifts effective this week. ASD justified this staffing decision by stating that the majority of ACT duties are performed during the day and this proposal was the least detrimental option considered. Other options discussed included reducing shelter operating hours and closing one of the City's six shelters. After protests from the public and current ASD shelter workers who are concerned about the welfare of impounded animals without trained supervision during the "graveyard shift," Department management has delayed the proposed redeployment of ACT staff.

Given ASD management's "no-win" options between worker safety and the humane treatment of the animals in the City's care, it has become apparent that this Department has experienced staffing reductions beyond its ability to properly carry-out its duties. It appears that Animal Services is the most dangerously underfunded Department in the City. Therefore, every effort should be made to provide the desperately needed staffing to this Department in both this and the next fiscal year. In addition, it is our understanding that the Mayor has already included funding and position authority for the positions in his proposed Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services be authorized 16 Animal Care Technician positions by resolution authority for the remainder of the current Fiscal Year.

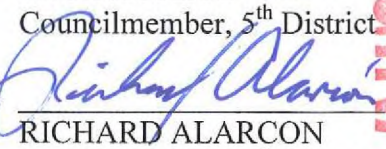
I FURTHER MOVE THAT the City Administrative Officer be instructed to identify funding for Animal Care Technician positions for the remainder of the Fiscal Year and to transfer funds, as needed, in the next Financial Status Report.

I MOVE FURTHER THAT the Mayor be requested to include funding and position authority for 16 Animal Care Technician positions in the proposed Fiscal Year 2013-14 Budget.

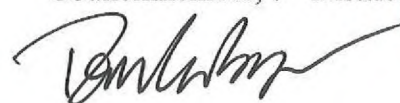
PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:


RICHARD ALARCON
Councilmember, 7th District

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ORIGINAL