

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the adoption of fee waivers for New Hope partners and Revised New Hope Program.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. NOTE and FILE the April 23, 2014 City Attorney report relative to the adoption of fee waivers for New Hope partners and Revised New Hope Program.
2. DIRECT the Department of Animal Services (DAS) to secure approval by the City Administrative Officer (CAO) with report to City Council prior to any future fee increases or other financial changes to the New Hope Program.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the CAO nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On May 20, 2014, your Committee considered an April 23, 2014 City Attorney report relative to the adoption of fee waivers for New Hope partners and Revised New Hope Program. According to the City Attorney, on May 14, 2013, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Board) approved an increase of the adoption fees paid by New Hope partners from \$40 to \$50, except for animals over six years of age or adopted from the "red" or "blue" lists, for which there would be no cost and requested the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to effectuate the changes.

Based upon a review of Section 53.11 (p) of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), it appears that the Board has the authority to waive some or all of the adoption fees for dogs, cats and rabbits without the need for an ordinance. New Hope partners are rescue organizations meeting the definition of LAMC Section 53.11 (p). The Board's waiver of some or all of the adoption fees and the approval of the revised New Hope Program on February 25, 2014, taking into account an animal's adoptability and the availability of shelter space, is consistent with Section 53.11 (p) and requires no further action on the part of City Council.

The revised New Hope Program leaves intact the waiver of adoption fees for New Hope partners for dogs, cats or rabbits that are over six years of age or are on the "red" or "blue" alert lists, which consist of the least adoptable animals; that is, the animals most at risk of being euthanized due to space or a medical condition. For all other dogs, cats or rabbits, all but \$50 of the adoption fee is waived to encourage New Hope partners to adopt the least adoptable animals and assist in partial cost recovery resulting from the fee waivers. In addition, Los Angeles based New Hope partners must pay the \$5.50 dog license tax regardless of whether the dog is subject to a full or partial fee waiver.

After further consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the April 23, 2014 City Attorney report and further recommend directing the DAS to have the CAO review and approve any proposed fee increase or other financial change to the New Hope Program and for the CAO to submit its report for Council approval prior to implementing any changes. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
---------------	-------------

KORETZ:	YES
---------	-----

O'FARRELL:	YES
------------	-----

FUENTES:	YES
----------	-----

ARL

5/20/14

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-