



MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk

From: Eric Garcetti, Mayor *EG*

Subject: Re-Exemption of **(1)** Zoo Chief Veterinarian

Date: February 26, 2019

The Zoo Department requested the exemption of one (1) Zoo Chief Veterinarian, Class Code 2360, in accordance with Charter Section 1001(b), from Civil Service as management, professional, scientific, or expert services exemptions. On January 31, 2018, the Mayor's Office asked the Personnel Department to review the Zoo's request.

Charter Section 1001(b) allows up to 150 persons to be exempt, of which 141 are approved. There are an additional 50 exempt positions added by the City Council pursuant to Charter Section 1001(b)(4), of which 13 are filled. Approval of this request will increase the count. As of the date of this letter, this request will be in the 148th position of the 150 exemptions. This position was authorized and funded in the 18-19 Budget.

The Chief Veterinarian is responsible for managing and directing the programs, operations and staff of the Animal Health Division, which provides medical care for approximately 1,300 animals in the Zoo's collection. The responsibilities are managed through a subordinate staff of 18 full-time and four part-time employees, and the duties include: managing and overseeing the health of the Zoo's animal collection and the new state-of-the-art Animal Health Center; exercising medical oversight of the animal collection; managing the Medical Animal Records Management System; representing the division at Zoo senior management and planning meetings, with the public, and at professional meetings or cooperative programs; developing the division's annual budget and maintaining budgetary control over expenditures; and keeping the institution current on medical trends, concepts and methods.

The Chief Veterinarian requires possession of, or be eligible for, a valid veterinary licensure in the State of California; and four years of full-time paid experience working as



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a zoo veterinarian, or equivalent, at a zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, with two years of direct supervisory and management experience. Eligibility to take the board examination in zoological medicine administered by the American College of Zoological Medicine is highly desired.

If the successful candidate is not already licensed in the State of California, he/she must obtain a California license to practice veterinary medicine within one year of appointment to this position.

The exemption of this position will allow the Zoo Department the flexibility to recruit and select the best-qualified candidates who possess the necessary experience and expertise for the position. The duties and requirements as described are appropriate to the class of Zoo Chief Veterinarian.

Based on my review of the Zoo's request, as well as the review of the Personnel Department, I hereby approve the request for the exemption of one Zoo Chief Veterinarian and transmit my action to the City Council, pursuant to City Charter Section 1001(b)(1).

EG:alg

cc: Denise M. Verret, Interim General Manager, Zoo Department
Ana Guerrero, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Mandy Morales, Office of the Mayor
Wendy Macy, General Manager, Personnel Department