

MOTION PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

The 2015-16 Adopted Budget instructs all City departments to annually review the fee structures for their respective department services, and to report to the Budget and Finance Committee by January 1, 2016 with "ordinances, status reports or negative replies concerning fee adjustments for the 2016-17 fiscal year." By having departments conduct these routine fee reviews, the City can ensure that City residents are paying fees that are fair, reasonable and based on the City's true cost for providing the public service.

The Department of Animal Services collects a variety of fees, including fees for pet adoptions, dog and equine licenses, pound and veterinarian fees, as well as permit fees for pet shops, dog kennels and other animal establishments. The Department also charges for microchip and spay and neuter sterilization, all of which help to cover the Department's General Fund expenses. In 2015-16, the Department of Animal Services is budgeted to collect nearly \$3.7M in revenue, two-thirds of which will be generated from dog licenses and dog pound fees. The department's current fee structure, however, is overdue for a review, with the last comprehensive review and fee schedule update implemented in 2010 (Ordinance No. 181341).

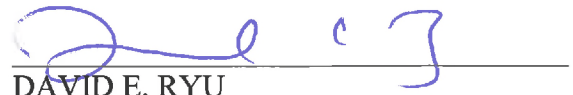
While Animal Services Department fees are intended to help cover the Department's costs, it should remain cognizant of its constituencies and refrain from imposing fees that deter the adoption of shelter pets or reduce the likelihood of compliance with the licensing requirements of Los Angeles Municipal Code. To mitigate the effects, the department should explore the implementation of a reduced fee structure that recognizes the socioeconomics of its potential customers.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services, with the assistance of the CAO, be instructed to conduct a comprehensive review and fiscal analysis of its current fee structure for all department licenses, permits, and services, and report to the City Council in with recommendations for the appropriate modification of the Department's fee structure.

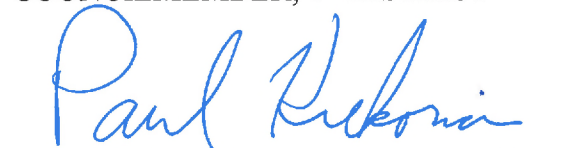
I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services include in its report to Council a detailed description of the cost components, methodologies, assumptions, and indices used in its fiscal analysis to determine the recommended fee levels.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services, with the assistance of the City Attorney, explore the implementation of late fees for unpaid invoices, and the possibility of applying fees on a reduced basis for City residents with verified socioeconomic challenges and include any recommendations in its report to Council.

PRESENTED BY:


DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER, 4th DISTRICT

SECONDED BY:



JAN 12 2016



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