

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 17-0413

Comments for Public Posting: ANIMAL ISSUES MOVEMENT 420 N. Bonnie Brae Street Los Angeles CA 90026-4925 animalissu@aol.com (213) 413-SPAY (ph/FAX) (213) 413-ADOPT (mobile) November 29, 2020
Honorable Los Angeles City Council City Hall 200 North SpringStreet Los Angeles, CA 90012: CF 17-0413 OPPOSITION - Citywide Cat Program / Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
Animal Issues Movement, a 501(c)3 CA corporation, hereby files its formal opposition to CF 17-0413, which seeks to create a policy of citywide release of feral (wild) cats within residential and commercial areas. This includes by reference our prior opposition in CF 12-1508, CF 13-1513 and CF 10-0982, which are summarized below. This \$1.5-million Environment Impact Report (EIR) is a misuse of City tax dollars. The public was not asked if they wanted this money spent on a report on feral cats, especially when thousands of humans are living in our streets and an equal number of animals are being left stray in order to cover the fact that "no kill" is a contrived fundraising concept, not a reality for the City's animals. Secondly, we object strongly to the childish and petty comments by Councilman Paul Koretz, intended to demean the Science Director of the Urban Wildlands Group, Dr. Travis Longcore. Koretz has admitted publicly that he had 19 cats when he was a child, which were taken to a shelter by his parents. He added that this is the impetus for his animal activism. Mr. Koretz guilt cannot be assuaged by turning 20,000 cats per year into the City's streets as a penance. Committing to expend at least \$2 million per year of the taxpayers' money on this program is a violation of the public trust and should trigger an investigation into Koretz' relationship to the organizations and spay/neuter facilities that will benefit financially, especially in view of his announced intention to seek the office of Controller next year.. This TNR proposal is also an attempt to divert funds from the Animal Sterilization Trust Fund, which are designated strictly to be used for "pet sterilization" and only for spay/neuter of owned animals. L.A. Animal Services GM Brenda Barnette recently admitted that no vouchers remain for spay/neuter of owned pets, yet the Council is being asked to commit a total of over \$60 million over a thirty-year program for sterilization and release of feral cats. Dr. Jan Rebstock advised Commission President Larry Gross at the last Commission meeting that at least

20,000 spays/neuters per year must be performed for the next 30 years. It is theft of tax dollars to commit to spend this outrageous amount of money when the city is in the throes of COVID-19 and residents are losing their jobs and homes, while money that would feed their family and provide them with shelter is being dedicated to stray/wild cats that will merely continue to multiply because Councilman Koretz and LAAS General Manager Brenda Barnette refuse to impose mandatory microchipping for owned cats-to provide accountability. This program is also inexcusable in light of the failure by General Manager Brenda Barnette and Councilman Paul Koretz to initiate and sustain targeted cat spay/neuter programs in low-income areas, neuter and impose restrictions on free-roaming cats. Additionally, Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) programs have not been successful in any large metropolis nor in any community/city with a transient population such as Los Angeles, because unaltered cats will multiply faster than any trapping efforts can address. There is no way tons of cat feces and urine excreted on streets and yards of residential areas; the spread of parasites and diseases such as toxoplasmosis; and rampant destruction of birds and other small mammals by colonized cats can ever be justified as harmless to the environment or can be "mitigated," not matter how many studies are done. The feeding of feral cats draws rodents and insects, plus the food attracts unaltered cats that cannot be trapped and continue to breed. In addition to the serious health and safety hazards that cannot be avoided under the proposed program, private property rights will be violated by intentionally feeding these animals in residential and business areas. This makes the cats and other wildlife, owned animals/pets and potentially humans in the area a target for coyotes and/or other predators attracted to the food supply. In the absence of a concerted effort to resolve the causal issues of feral cats, L.A. City Council should not allow an obvious "money grab" of tax dollars for purported spay/neuter services for unowned/stray/roaming cats, which cannot be audited. We urge the Council to vote "No" on this item. .
Sincerely, Phyllis M. Daugherty PHYLLIS M. DAUGHERTY,
Director