

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: As someone born and raised in Los Angeles, I have always felt pride in my city and assumed that despite problems, that local government was capable, humane, moral and able to successfully manage its responsibilities. The abhorrent conditions of our animal shelters that has recently come to light has changed my view. That the city has relied on "volunteers" rather than trained, paid staff to take care of animals is shocking, and that staff shortages and ongoing funding issues have not been addressed, despite members of the public and employees in these facilities speaking out is further egregious. I hope that the suffering and overcrowding in LA's animal shelters will be addressed immediately with meaningful, systemic actions, bolstered by the necessary resources. LA's animal shelters should be a model for the world, not an example of shameful neglect. Obvious immediate measures should include hiring the necessary employees so animals can be walked daily and cared for properly, more extensive hours of operation for the public to visit shelters, programs to address root causes for unwanted animals, upgrade/expanding facilities, etc. Above all it seems that our local government needs to make animal services a higher priority than is currently the case and ensure that in the future there is oversight so that the public's trust that their taxes are appropriately used to provide public services will be regained.