

Communication from Public

Name: Alberto Barragan

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilwoman Yaroslavsky and Los Angeles City Councilmembers, I am writing to urge you to fully and immediately implement the increased reimbursement rates for the Los Angeles City spay and neuter voucher program. As you know, our City is facing a severe shortage of spay and neuter for dogs and cats, resulting in overcrowded shelters and avoidable animal euthanasia. Legislators, veterinarians, and animal welfare experts agree that expanding spay and neuter services is the most effective way to address this crisis. To help families who cannot afford these essential services, the City has long offered a voucher program. Unfortunately, the reimbursement rates have remained unchanged since 2015. Recognizing that these outdated rates no longer cover the actual costs of spay or neuter surgeries, the City Council voted unanimously in 2024 to increase the voucher reimbursement rates. While this decision was met with widespread approval, the City Administrative Officer (CAO) has yet to approve the budget increase. This leaves families and rescue organizations without access to vital spay and neuter services, leading to unwanted litters and thousands of shelter animals at risk of euthanasia. Although Los Angeles law mandates that all dogs and cats over four months old be spayed or neutered, many pet owners are not able to afford to do so. The spay and neuter voucher program is the solution. By fully implementing the voucher rate increase, you will immediately improve animal welfare across our City. More veterinarians will join the program, more families will receive essential assistance, and fewer animals will face euthanasia. Together, we have the opportunity to make a direct and positive impact on the well-being of pets and families throughout Los Angeles. Sincerely, Alberto Barragan