

Communication from Public

Name: Crystal Valino

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Council File No: 23-0452

Comments for Public Posting: Fully Fund All Spay/Neuter Voucher Types – Animals and Families Deserve Better Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers, I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to fully fund all spay and neuter voucher types in the City of Los Angeles, not just the Free Voucher for owned pets, but also those that support the Citywide Cat Program, shelter pets, mobile clinics, rabbits, and low-income families. After ten years without an increase, the City Council's recent decision to raise reimbursement rates for only one voucher type—for just one year—leaves behind tens of thousands of animals who urgently need care. This limited increase fails to support the high-volume, cost-effective programs that have proven to reduce shelter intake and euthanasia rates. As you know, LA faces an escalating animal welfare crisis: our shelters are overcrowded, adoptable animals are being euthanised, and veterinarians cannot afford to participate in the voucher program because the outdated reimbursement rates do not reflect the real cost of providing care. Vulnerable animals need help. Every dollar invested in spay and neuter saves the City approximately four dollars in sheltering costs. At the South LA shelter alone, the City spends an estimated \$12,000 per day in animal care costs—more than \$4 million per year. Now multiply that by six LAAS shelters. Fully funding the voucher program is not just humane, it's fiscally responsible. Please don't leave our animals and the people who care for them behind. Fully implement the voucher rate increase across all voucher types so we can prevent suffering, reduce costs, and save lives. Sincerely, Crystal Valino, DVM 90703