

Communication from Public

Name: Rosie Elane Sanchez

Date Submitted: 02/24/2025 09:21 PM

Council File No: 23-0452

Comments for Public Posting: Hello all, I am a volunteer for the city shelters and work primarily with the rabbits and rodents. Please increase the low income rabbit voucher to \$250 and implement this year!

Communication from Public

Name: Karn Myers

Date Submitted: 02/24/2025 05:03 PM

Council File No: 23-0452

Comments for Public Posting: City Council item #23-0452 My nonprofit veterinary clinic, FixNation, provides spay/neuter services through the City of Los Angeles voucher program. These vouchers are a lifeline for sterilizing shelter animals, companion animals and community cats, playing a crucial role in preventing overcrowded shelters and reducing the public and shelter backlog in spay/neuter procedures. I strongly urge the City Council to increase the current reimbursement rates. A long overdue adjustment to the City's spay/neuter voucher rates would allow more veterinarians to participate in the program. At present, only 29 clinics accept these "free" vouchers, a sharp decline from 85 in 2015. The last increase to reimbursement rates was in August 2015, and since that time the cost of veterinary care – including staff salaries and essential medications – has risen significantly. The current reimbursement rates fall far below the actual cost of providing these services, making it financially unfeasible for many vet clinics to continue participating (particularly clinics like FixNation, which provides more than 18,000 spay/neuter surgeries each year, the majority of which are free services for community cats). Although the City's 2024 budget allowed for an increase in voucher reimbursement rates (based on a 2022 fee study of shelter clinic providers), this increase has yet to be implemented. A recent proposal from the CAO's office suggests rolling out lower-than-planned rates incrementally over multiple years, but by the time those phased-in rates take effect, they will already be outdated by 3 to 6 years. Without the full and immediate implementation of the approved 2024 budget increase, the City will remain stuck in a cycle where local residents struggle to afford sterilization for their pets, veterinarians are unable to accept City vouchers and shelter euthanasia rates continue to rise due to an unmanageable demand for spay/neuter services. Approving the full increase would immediately improve access to affordable spay/neuter care, allow more veterinarians to participate in the program and provide desperately needed assistance to Angelenos in need. We urge you to act now to support this much-needed change, not only for the well-being of Los Angeles pets and community cats but for all those who love and care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: CAROL VENA-MONDT

Date Submitted: 02/24/2025 04:43 PM

Council File No: 23-0452

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers, I am writing to emphasize the urgent need to fully and immediately implement the increased reimbursement rates for the Los Angeles City spay and neuter voucher program. THIS IS AN URGENT SITUATION. 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—due to inflation and rising veterinary expenses—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. We are deeply concerned by the CAO's proposal to implement reduced, incremental increases over several years, a plan that would render the new rates 3 to 6 years outdated by the time they are fully in effect. Without the full implementation of the increased reimbursement rates, too few veterinarians will be able to afford to accept the vouchers. This leaves families and rescue organizations without access to vital spay and neuter services and puts 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 and rescues wait months for an appointment due to the shortage of participating veterinarians. By fully implementing the voucher rate increase, you will immediately enhance animal welfare across our City. More veterinarians will join the program, more families beloved pets will receive essential assistance. Together, we have the opportunity to make a direct and positive impact on the well-being of pets and families throughout Los Angeles. This is urgent! Sincerely, Carol Vena-Mondt Citizen who loves animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth Oreck
Date Submitted: 02/24/2025 05:53 PM
Council File No: 23-0452
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter of support from Best Friends Animal Society - Los Angeles re: the proposed Spay & Neuter Voucher Program reimbursement increase. Thank you.



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24 February 2025

Los Angeles City Council
Arts, Park, Libraries, and Community Enrichment Committee

Re: Support for Spay & Neuter Voucher Increase (Item 23-0452)

Dear Committee Chair Jurado and Committee members,

I am writing to convey support from Best Friends Animal Society for the proposed increase in reimbursement rates for the Los Angeles City spay and neuter voucher program.

Los Angeles is currently experiencing a severe shortage of spay and neuter services for dogs and cats, resulting in unplanned litters and overcrowded shelters. Elected officials, veterinarians, and animal welfare experts agree that expanding spay and neuter services is a critical tool 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 the last voucher rate increase in 2015. Recognizing that these outdated rates no longer cover the current costs of spay or neuter surgeries—due to inflation and rising veterinary expenses—the City Council voted unanimously in 2024 to increase the voucher reimbursement rates. While this decision was met with widespread approval, the increase has not yet been implemented.

Without an increase in reimbursement rates, too few veterinarians will be able to afford to accept the vouchers, leaving families and rescue organizations without access to vital spay and neuter services and putting thousands of shelter animals at risk of losing their lives. Although Los Angeles law mandates that all dogs and cats over four months old be spayed or neutered, many pet owners and rescues wait months for an appointment due to the shortage of participating veterinarians, allowing their animals to produce unwanted litters.

By fully implementing the voucher rate increase, you will see an immediate effect throughout our city. More veterinarians will join the voucher program and more families will receive the critical services they need.

Together, we have an opportunity to make a direct and positive impact on the well-being of pets and families throughout Los Angeles, while stemming the flow of animals coming into our shelters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Oreck
Senior Manager, Community Engagement
Best Friends Animal Society – Los Angeles
bestfriends.org

Communication from Public

Name: Jose Sandoval

Date Submitted: 02/24/2025 04:45 PM

Council File No: 23-0452

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Greater Los Angeles Animal spay Neuter Collaborative, we are in support of increasing the pet spay Neuter Voucher amount. As an advocacy organization that represent 20 nonprofit organization who have dedicated many years of providing spay neuter resources in communities of color, we ask that you support the increase voucher amount. Thank you! Jose Sandoval, GLAASNC

Communication from Public

Name: Pam Wilkinson

Date Submitted: 02/24/2025 09:49 PM

Council File No: 23-0452

Comments for Public Posting: If the voucher cost was increased, more veterinarians would join or rejoin the voucher program which will increase spay and neuter thus reducing shelter intake saving the city money. It costs the city more money by not increasing the voucher amount since 2015. This has led to overcrowded shelters as the City no longer has a robust spay and neuter program so animals are procreating at an alarming rate! Spay4LA has been trying to spay and neuter dogs and cats in the City of LA, however our non profit can not continue to loose money every time we spay a city animal so we will be focusing on County pets and reduce their shelter intake. The legalities of making a seatbelt mandatory, people must have seatbelts in their cars. With Mandatory spay and neuter, people need proper access to free spay and neuter. When smogging a car there is help available to low income people. Potential problems could arise if there is not spay and neuter available for low income people. The city is loosing spay and neuter providers because the voucher cost has not been increased since 2015. By fully implementing the voucher rate increase, you will: -Reduce the cost of intake -Reduce the cost of having overcrowded shelters -Reduce the cost of potential lawsuits -Reduce the cost of employee burnout -Reduce procreation of unwanted animals -enhance animal welfare across our City. -More veterinarians will join the program, more families will receive essential assistance. Every day without this increase means fewer pets are spayed or neutered, worsening our City's animal welfare crisis and leaving low-income families without support. Today, you have the opportunity to: -save the city money, -reduce unwanted births -reduce over crowded shelters and -mitigate potential legal problems. Sincerely, [Your Name] [Your Organization]

Communication from Public

Name: Pam Wilkinson

Date Submitted: 02/24/2025 11:20 PM

Council File No: 23-0452

Comments for Public Posting: If the voucher cost was increased, more veterinarians would join or rejoin the voucher program which will increase spay and neuter thus reducing shelter intake saving the city money. It costs the city more money by not increasing the voucher amount since 2015. This has led to overcrowded shelters as the City no longer has a robust spay and neuter program so animals are procreating at an alarming rate! Spay4LA has been trying to spay and neuter dogs and cats in the City of LA, however our non profit can not continue to loose money every time we spay a city animal so we will be focusing on County pets and reduce their shelter intake. The legalities of making a seatbelt mandatory, people must have seatbelts in their cars. With Mandatory spay and neuter, people need proper access to free spay and neuter. When smogging a car there is help available to low income people. Potential problems could arise if there is not spay and neuter available for low income people. The city is loosing spay and neuter providers because the voucher cost has not been increased since 2015. By fully implementing the voucher rate increase, you will: -Reduce the cost of intake -Reduce the cost of having overcrowded shelters -Reduce the cost of potential lawsuits -Reduce the cost of employee burnout -Reduce procreation of unwanted animals -enhance animal welfare across our City. -More veterinarians will join the program, more families will receive essential assistance. Every day without this increase means fewer pets are spayed or neutered, worsening our City's animal welfare crisis and leaving low-income families without support. Today, you have the opportunity to: -save the city money, -reduce unwanted births -reduce over crowded shelters and -mitigate potential legal problems.