

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Martha Tobo

**Date Submitted:** 04/29/2025 09:42 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0452

**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 Recognizing that these outdated rates no longer cover the actual costs of spay or neuter surgeries, the City Council voted unanimously in 2024 to increase the voucher reimbursement rates.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, Martha Tobo A concerned tax paying citizen and veterinary assistant.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Devin Bennett

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2025 01:59 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0452

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm Devin Bennett and I run an LA animal rescue. Mayor Bass wants you to gut LA Animal Services, laying off 62 employees and slashing \$6.4 million dollars - 10% of its already outrageously low budget. LAAS is comprised of 6 shelters, across a 500 square mile territory, serving more than 4 million LA residents, and handles over 60,000 animals annually. The LA Times reported that across those six shelters there was a 72% increase in dog euthanasia and a 17% increase in cat euthanasia from January through September last year. That's about 1,224 dogs and 1,517 cats killed in our shelters over 9 months. Many of those animals — up to 200 per week — weren't sick, or difficult, or dangerous. They are killed because there is no space and not enough staff. This proposed budget would result in the closure of at least one of only six shelters. There simply will not be enough employees or money to continue operation. Before you vote on this budget proposal, you have a civic duty and moral obligation to visit South LA or North Central Animal Shelter to see the conditions the animals are already living in there. Then imagine the nightmare of fewer shelters and 62 fewer employees. As a corporate litigator, when I realized how cruel and neglectful care standards would become for the animals in our shelters and the explosion in numbers of the already tens of thousands of animals living on our streets if this budget cut is approved, my first thought was "we'll need to figure out who to include in our lawsuit." The animal overpopulation crisis is the City's fault, yet it's the rescues who carry your burden on our backs. We do the TNR, we pull hundreds of animals off your euthanasia lists, we keep thousands of animals from ever stepping foot in your shelters. If not for us, LAAS euthanasia rates would likely be in the tens of thousands. But if you pass this budget, the City won't be able to hide its colossal failures behind our hard work anymore. We just don't have the resources. You've already taken them from us. Maybe you don't care about the thousands and thousands of animals who will die if you approve this budget — but the community will. The media will. Your kids will. People love animals. We will scream from the rooftops the names of every person responsible for letting this happen. Shira, Nathan, and I (who are all speaking at the hearing) alone have 1.5 million followers on social media. People are watching. And if you

approve this budget, you will be remembered for having the blood of thousands of innocent puppies and kittens on your hands. And I know if I was you, I wouldn't be able to sleep at night.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Natasha Najjar

**Date Submitted:** 04/28/2025 02:20 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0452

**Comments for Public Posting:** The budget already for helping feral felines is so low that cutting it would be so devastating. Please reconsider this decision.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Esnevith Jimenez  
**Date Submitted:** 04/30/2025 09:56 AM  
**Council File No:** 23-0452

**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, Esnevith Jimenez

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karen

**Date Submitted:** 04/30/2025 11:24 AM

**Council File No:** 23-0452

**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, Karen E.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stephania Bustos  
**Date Submitted:** 04/30/2025 04:14 PM  
**Council File No:** 23-0452  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Increase the spay/neuter voucher value and fund the Citywide Cat Program. The city must support surrender prevention by adequately funding spay/neuter for the animals of L.A.