

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jeffrey Mausner  
**Date Submitted:** 10/03/2023 02:51 PM  
**Council File No:** 23-0452  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached.

I strongly support everything in the Motion, Council File 23-0452. Thank you to Councilmembers Hernandez and Soto-Martinez for recognizing the overcrowding problems at the City Shelters and the urgency of the situation. There is an **emergency** taking place regarding animals in the City. **Severe overcrowding and killing of healthy adoptable dogs in the City Animal Shelters for lack of space is an emergency.** The overpopulation of dogs is costing the City millions of dollars. Please see: [Crucial City Funding: Spay and Neuter Saves Money and Lives \(citywatchla.com\)](http://citywatchla.com)

As well as the steps set forth in Council Files 23-0452 and 23-0926, it is crucial that steps be taken immediately to decrease the number of dogs coming into the shelters. A moratorium on breeding permits is a necessary step in doing so, at least until this immediate emergency is resolved. I therefore support Council File Council File 23-1008, entitled “Breeding Permit Moratorium /Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) /Amendment.”

At the same time, I suggest that the City Council also take the following steps to address the overcrowding emergency:

1. Encourage spay/neuter of pets by increasing funding for more free and discounted spay/neuter vouchers and increasing the amount veterinarians are paid for performing spay/neuters under the vouchers. The amount of payment to vets pursuant to the vouchers is ridiculously low and, as a result, there are not enough vets willing to perform spay/neuters under the vouchers. Increasing the availability of vouchers and raising the fees paid to veterinarians to encourage them to perform spay/neuters is a necessary step in solving the emergency. As stated in the article linked to above:

“According to the Humane Society, female cats can breed three times a year and have an average of 4 kittens per litter. Dogs can breed twice a year with litters of 6-10 puppies. In seven years, one unspayed female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats and one unspayed female dog and her offspring can produce 99,000 dogs. While this is just the statistical possibilities and the numbers would be much less in the real world, it is clear that failure to spay/neuter just a few dogs and cats will lead to the birth of hundreds, if not thousands, of homeless dogs and cats over several years. Failure to provide adequate funding for spay/neuter of thousands of animals is the height of penny wise and ‘pound’ foolish.”

2. Deploy an advertising/email/social media campaign for spay/neuter vouchers. As part of this campaign, make clear that the City is going to **start enforcing spay/neuter laws more vigorously, much more vigorously.** Publicize that you can use a free or discounted spay/neuter voucher to avoid a severe fine. There should be severe fines for failure to spay/neuter, with minimal or no waivers.

3. Use the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter in Mission Hills and the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter in South L.A. on an emergency basis to house dogs from overcrowded shelters. Call for all experienced former volunteers to return to help care for the animals there. Bringing back

former volunteers who were wrongfully terminated or left because they were mistreated will not only allow this to be done at the lowest cost for the City, but it can also resolve the ongoing issues and avoid potential litigation regarding the former volunteers. Please see: [Animal Shelter Volunteers Win First Round in Fight for First Amendment Rights](#)

Sincerely, Jeffrey Mausner

(For identification purposes:

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This comment is not posted on behalf of the Animal Services Department.