

Communication from Public

Name: Rosemary Jaramillo

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 01:16 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Thank you for supporting our re-entry community. I appreciate dedication and the amazing work that you are doing.

Communication from Public

Name: Heather Davis

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 01:22 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is the first time that I've ever written a letter on behalf of a politician--local or national. I've been inspired to do so by the robust and hopeful response of Mayor Bass to the many issues facing my hometown. As a Westside resident with growing awareness and concern over the problems of homelessness in our midst, I was happy to see the many ways that the Mayor's office is addressing this complex problem, emphasizing both prevention as well as urgent response to those currently on the streets. Listening to her State of the City address I appreciated her appeal to the private sector to help fund the housing we so desperately need. Tying it in with civic pride vis a vis the upcoming Olympics lent a can-do spirit to a manageable goal. As I talk with neighbors throughout Venice and Mar Vista in my various endeavors I am hearing growing admiration and support. Reading over her budget summary I feel confident that she has done the hard work of prioritizing expenses to meet our more pressing needs and that LA will be well served by this budget. I hope it passes as written.

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsey bragen

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 10:18 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I completely support and back the 2024 budget, especially from my perspective of being a fourth year college student in Los Angeles. Throughout my time at school here, there have been numerous crimes that firsthand affected me and others around me, including but not limited car break ins or apartment break ins. This leaves me in particular, but also the entire community and college feeling unsafe, and this budget takes the steps needed to ensure safety for myself and others. Because of its focus on crime prevention, the 2024 budget will provide a safer environment for everyone in the Los Angeles community, especially students.

Communication from Public

Name: Evelyn Balderas
Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 04:09 PM
Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a proud resident of Los Angeles and a passionate advocate for our city parks, I am writing to highlight the indispensable value that our parks bring to our communities. Having spent countless hours in parks like MacArthur Park in the vibrant Westlake area, I have witnessed firsthand the immense benefits they offer. Our city parks are not just recreational spaces; they are essential contributors to our overall quality of life. They provide vital opportunities for leisure, exercise, and social interaction, contributing to the well-being of residents across the city. I urge the members of the budget committee to prioritize the restoration of the Recreation and Parks Department's (RAP) authority by allocating a minimum of 80 full-time positions. Additionally, I implore you to reconsider the recent \$10 million cut in the department's part-time budget. Without your support, the maintenance, programs, and resources provided by our beloved city parks will be in jeopardy. This would not only impact the parks themselves but also jeopardize the health and well-being of Los Angeles residents. I urge you to stand with our community in ensuring that our city parks continue to thrive. Your support is crucial in safeguarding these invaluable assets for current and future generations. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Fran Solomon

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 06:29 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Thank you for presenting a most comprehensive and well thought out 2024/25 budget to Angelenos - from funding our parks and libraries to paying city workers what they deserve and thereby improving customer service for all Angelenos. As a 50 year resident of North Venice Beach, I am particularly supportive of the budget for increased safety programs including Inside Safe, Keeping Angelenos Safe, support for the new office of Community Safety and the real attempt by increasing funding at a human approach to help our less fortunate fellow citizens. The increase in funding for police and fire personnel is long overdue and we are grateful for this government support. As a community that receives 10 million visitors a year (2nd only to Disneyland) I am encouraged to see an overall enhanced safety commitment to this area. I also support the excellent use of increased funds to combat cyber threats which are becoming more common and intrusive every day. Thank you again for your continued focus on ways to enhance the quality of life for Angelenos.

Communication from Public

Name: Juan

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 07:13 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am concerned about more cuts to our parks department when it's already underfunded. Our community of color will suffer the most as we already have little access to nature in our daily lives. I would like to see budget that's being proposed to go to LAPD to instead go to the parks department. Our police department already has one of the largest budgets, and it's going to pay for cops who misuse their power and authority and to put down legal protests.

Communication from Public

Name: Irma Lara-Venegas

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 07:23 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Irma Lara-Venegas, a 52 year resident of the community of Wilmington. I write in support of the continued funding for the Mayor's inside safe program for the mitigation of homelessness. For years our community had Rv's, belonging to homeless individuals, under the Pacific Coast Highway overpass on Alameda Street. A few weeks ago, there was an inside safe operation in that area with the Mayor's collaboration along with our Councilman Tim McCosker and Harbor Division police department. There was about 40 people that were "taken inside" that day. They are now safe and our community is grateful for that. The inside safe program is having a positive impact in all the communities where operations have taken place. Resources are offered, but most important they are taken "inside." It's continued funding is a must. The collaboration of the different agencies is key. Consistency of it's usage will show continued improvement of the quality of life in our communities. Our hearts are full of gratitude, thank you for your continued support with this urgent matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Jesse Peterson

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 09:44 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, as a resident of LA I am very disturbed and concerned about the proposed FY25 budget. Specifically, I am concerned about why we are putting even MORE money towards police, who do not improve the safety of LA residents and do not prevent crime, and taking that money away from services that actually do prevent crime, such as homelessness and housing budgets. You can also clearly see that in FY24, LAPD had far and away the largest number of liability payouts at \$105.6M. So, the taxpayer pays billions of dollars for the LAPD to beat up college students and joyride around in helicopters (needlessly contributing pollution that we DO NOT NEED), and then we pay a hundred million more on top of that for when the police shoot someone they weren't supposed to and get sued? That's honestly ridiculous. We the people of Los Angeles deserve a city that SUPPORTS us, not POLICES us. We need more money in sanitation, housing, homelessness, mental health care, transportation, childcare, and education. We need FAR LESS money going to the LAPD. It is a disgusting use of our taxpayer money to give it all to the LAPD, bloodthirsty and power-hungry people who train in Israel with the IDF to harm and kill civilians. Please redo this budget with the people you serve in mind, not the ruling class who wants a police state. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Cathy Serksnas

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 09:57 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: LA Animal Services Budget FY 2024-25 – Observations and Recommendations to Budget and Finance Committee

Observations: • In GM Dains Budget Proposal, her calculations (chart) showed, that for this current fiscal year (2023-24), she is actually OVERSTAFFED as a ratio of animals to Animal Care Technicians (ACT's). In that report, the numbers showed at the department was actually 538 animals UNDER the capacity that they could handle. According to her report, she has more than enough ACT's. • Is the shelter overcrowded? The answer is yes. However, what is driving the overcrowding is NOT the actual number of dogs (which has decreased over the years to current) but, the composition of the population. That is, the number of large breed versus small breed. Last calculations showed that approximately 94-95% of the dog are LARGE breed unlike previous years. Combined, the shelters have about 1,020 dog kennels. When visiting shelters, you will find just a handful of small dogs (i.e., West Valley currently has about 8 in total – unprecedented). The point is...you can squeeze about 7 small dogs into one kennel where as 7 large breed dogs will each take one kennel. Therefore, what tactics are being taken to promote large breed adoptions. Focus on getting the highly adoptable ones our first. • The Dog Occupancy Meter is misleading and basically inaccurate. Dains states that are 737 general kennels for dogs (her "capacity" denominator in meter). However, according to shelter data and even a report from Controller, the shelter has about 1,020 kennels. What she is doing to state only 737, is subtracting the number of dogs in Evidence and Observation (or OBS). Estimates show about 50 dogs in these two categories cause those dogs are tying up kennels that can't be used for general adoptable dogs. Therefore, that would be the number of "available kennels" (capacity) for general adoptable dogs at around 970 and not 737. ON TOP OF THAT, she is NOT subtracting the Evidence and OBS dogs for the Current Population (the numerator in meter). Very misleading. Current dog population around 1,450. So, $1,400 (1,450 - 50) \div 970 = 144\%$ not over 200%. Still a problem but, overstated. • Dains claimed in LAAS Board of Commissioner's meeting last month, that she secured about \$3M to bring on board over 100 part-time Animal Care Assistants (ACA's) and clerical help. In the CAO's last FSR report, they

recommended transferring about \$554K, intra-department, half the funds from General Salaries (savings) and the other half from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (AWTF) into Salaries as Needed for THIS current fiscal year, 2023-24. Therefore about \$2.5M remains to be approved. No way this could have been approved prior to budget meetings for 2024-25 even though she states that basically the money is secured. Also, to the best of my knowledge, AWTF money/donations CANNOT be used to pay salaries. Recommendations:

- OPEN the shelter at 8AM on Saturday mornings instead of 11AM. We are losing primetime hours available for the public to adopt. Cannot understand why this can't been done IMMEDIATELY since the day shift starts at 8AM, just UNLOCK the doors. How does NOT opening shelters at 8AM help get more dogs adopted??? Prior to COVID these were the hours at Saturday. My researched showed that when they did away with "appointment only" on Wednesday's and Friday's (beginning July 2023), adoptions to the public increased by 55% on those days. More animals were adopted overall, but biggest benefit was smoothing out the traffic and transactions (demand on staff) during the week.
- Please fund medical and food expenses to reflect current spending levels. Approximately \$100K should be added back into each expense line item.
- Do not support the elimination of the "graveyard" shift. That's NOT a good idea. Dains claims graveyard shift is unproductive and wasting human resources better utilized during day hours. Solution: Give the graveyard shift ASSINGMENTS (can think of tons of things) to make sure they are busy. The kennels should be spotless when graveyard shift ends and the doors are ready to open to the public.
- With the moratorium on Breeders Permits, we need to better understand the impact it will have on reducing the number of dogs coming into shelters. I currently have a pending CPRA request to find out, over the last two years, how many pups were bred, sold and/or transferred and to WHERE and WHOM. By law, all this information was to be reported back to the department according to Municipal Code LAMC 53.15.2. So basically, LAAS should have been able to gauge how many of these dogs ended up at the shelter after they were sold/adopted in the City of LA.
- In support of cracking down on back yard breeders and the Animal Control Officer (ACO) needed to crack down on these people. When backyard breeding, or sale of puppies (in commercial parking lots) is reported to the department, NOTHING is done. To Be Cont.

LA Animal Services Budget FY 2024-25 – Observations and Recommendations to Budget and Finance Committee

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Recommendations:

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- In support of cracking down on back yard breeders and the Animal Control Officer (ACO) needed to crack down on these people. When backyard breeding, or sale of puppies (in commercial parking lots) is reported to the department, NOTHING is done. Because shelters were basically closed during COVID and public could NOT adopt from shelter, this created an opportunity for breeders to meet the demand. Now, we are paying the price.
- Consider increasing the amount of S/N free and discount vouchers. Currently about ½ the vouchers are redeemed meaning animals are not being altered. To remain expense neutral, reduce the number of vouchers and increase the amount. The way it currently stands, they're being wasted anyway and money isn't being spend.

Communication from Public

Name: Earl Osborne

Date Submitted: 05/08/2024 10:25 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I support the Mayor's budget, and effort to tackle homelessness.
We urge council to pass the budget

Communication from Public

Name: Albert Torres

Date Submitted: 05/08/2024 10:27 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Albert Torres and I support the mayor's budget. I respectfully ask for the council to pass her budget. We want to see more inside safe operations.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/08/2024 09:33 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: LA needs to increase funding for spay/neuter programs citywide, year round. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Conrad C Romo
Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 11:30 AM
Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: When I was a kid I remember hearing president Kennedy say, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." What if we can borrow this and make it local and bring attention to areas where our city needs help, areas where one can be of service through volunteering and areas where the city is hiring. For instance, I understand there is a shortage of 911 operators which can result in long hold times which can be very frustrating and can deter people from doing the right thing. I understand the city is hiring 911 operators, but does the general public know this? I'll bet that a survey would find that most are not aware of various jobs that need to be filled. Can we do more public service announcements, get the word out more with news stories? What other areas is a city under staffed that the general public might consider the spirit of being of service and volunteering or applying for a good job? I've taken many hikes around our city and often see dead brush or trees that need to be cleaned or cut back rather than remain a fire hazard. Can there be work force programs to make a dent in this ongoing problem? A few years back I organized a street cleanup for a few blocks in Koreatown. I found that there were groups like KYCC, the Korean Youth & Community Center, a church group from St. Mary's and members of the Zen Center LA that all joined forces and made a difference. How and where else can we enlist like minded people?

Communication from Public

Name: Azadeh Allayee

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 12:03 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass and members of the Los Angeles City Council, Please take immediate action to address the dire situation of shelter overcrowding plaguing our city. It's a crisis that demands urgent attention. By allocating more resources to LA Animal Services' budget for spay/neuter programs and increasing voucher amounts for veterinarians, we can begin to tackle the root cause of this problem. Every day that passes without action means more animals suffering and being euthanized due to lack of space. Our city's character is at stake, and it's imperative that we demonstrate compassion and responsibility towards our animal companions. Please, let's not fail them in their time of need. As a Los Angeles resident, I strongly urge Mayor Karen Bass and the Los Angeles City Council to increase LA Animal Services' budget for spay/neuter and increase voucher amounts so more veterinarians can participate in the city's voucher program. The lack of access to pet sterilization is greatly contributing to the severe overcrowding crisis in Los Angeles city shelters. Our treatment of animals reflects our city's character. Please don't let animals suffer under your watch. Mayor Bass, City Council members, the time for decisive action is now. Los Angeles is facing a shelter overcrowding crisis of unprecedented proportions, and the consequences are dire. Too many animals are paying the ultimate price because of our failure to provide adequate resources for spaying and neutering. We cannot allow this cycle of suffering and euthanasia to continue. I urge you to prioritize funding for LA Animal Services' spay/neuter programs and expand voucher amounts for veterinarians. Lives depend on it. Our city's compassion and integrity are on the line. Let's not be remembered as leaders who turned a blind eye to the plight of innocent animals. The time to act is now, and the responsibility rests with each of us to make a difference.

Communication from Public

Name: Cathy Serksnas

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 10:02 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Continuation..... • In support of cracking down on back yard breeders and the Animal Control Officer (ACO) needed to crack down on these people. When backyard breeding, or sale of puppies (in commercial parking lots) is reported to the department, NOTHING is done. Because shelters were basically closed during COVID and public could NOT adopt from shelter, this created an opportunity for breeders to meet the demand. Now, we are paying the price. • Consider increasing the amount of S/N free and discount vouchers. Currently about 1/2 the vouchers are redeemed meaning animals are not being altered. To remain expense neutral, reduce the number of vouchers and increase the amount. The way it currently stands, they're being wasted anyway and money isn't being spend.

Communication from Public

Name: Vanessa Hernandez

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 10:11 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want to said that please don't do any recort for the budget of the parks. We need the workers to kept the parks safe