

Communication from Public

Name: Christine Kim

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Council File No: 24-0694

Comments for Public Posting: To the Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council, My Dog Is My Home is writing in strong support of Motion #24-0694, which requests that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), draft an ordinance within the next 30 days to prohibit landlords from charging monthly pet rent to any tenant. This motion is a crucial step toward making housing more accessible and affordable for renters with animals in Los Angeles, aligning with our mission to increase access to shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity with companion animals. Animal guardians in Los Angeles face significant challenges in finding rental units that accept animals, often burdened with monthly pet rent ranging from \$100 to \$400 per animal, making housing financially unfeasible for many. This extra cost is on top of a one-time pet deposit meant to cover any damage caused by pets. The recurring pet rent is an unfair financial burden that does not correlate with actual costs incurred by landlords. This financial strain exacerbates the housing crisis and contributes to severe overcrowding in city animal shelters, with dog occupancy at 211% capacity. The high cost of pet rent forces people to surrender pets to shelters and discourages adoptions, worsening the problem. These issues are directly related to My Dog Is My Home's mission. Our organization advocates for the rights and needs of people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, recognizing the critical role that companion animals play in their lives. Animals provide emotional support, stability, and a sense of responsibility and normalcy, which are particularly important for those facing housing instability. The financial strain of pet rent forces tenants to make the difficult decision to give up their animals, leading to increased shelter intake and further emotional distress for both individuals and their animals. By prohibiting landlords from charging monthly pet rent, the City Council can help alleviate this burden, promoting housing stability and reducing the number of animals surrendered to shelters. In conclusion, we urge the Los Angeles City Council to support Motion #24-0694. By eliminating the practice of charging monthly pet rent, we can make housing more affordable and accessible for renters with companion animals, reduce the number of animals entering shelters, and support the well-being of all

members of the family. This motion represents a compassionate and pragmatic approach to addressing the intertwined issues of housing affordability and animal welfare in our city. Thank you for considering our position. We look forward to the positive impact this ordinance will have on the community and stand ready to support its implementation in any way we can. Sincerely,
Christine Kim Founder, My Dog Is My Home
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