

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 24-0694

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly recommend the City Council pass motions 23-0002-S138 AND 24-0694. I am an Affordable Housing provider (a fancy way to say my husband and I are landlords who take housing vouchers) who had a nearly 40-year career working with people experiencing homelessness (PEH), including co-founding SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition and sitting on two nonprofit boards, My Dog Is My Home and Project Street Vet, dedicated to supporting PEH and their pets. Many PEH with pets are faced with the unenviable decision- give up a family member to go into housing or stay on the street as a whole family. For folks who are forced to give up their pets, the pet usually goes to our already overcrowded animal shelters. Giving up a pet is a death sentence for the pet. Currently more LA homeless shelters are more likely to accept pets, which is great. But homeless shelters, even the best run ones, are not long-term pet friendly places (too much noise, too many smells and too many unknown people). An apartment with their family is the best place for pets and people. As landlords, we never turn away prospective tenants with pets. It has been our experience that pet families are less likely to move, are more responsible, are more likely to pay rent on time and are more likely to take care of their apartments. Regrettably many landlords believe the urban legend that pets equal damage and that lower income pet families are going to be irresponsible. We have found nothing could be further from the truth! Finally, the most important reason I am urging you to vote YES on these two motions: I am a mom of a 24-year-old daughter with a cat. When she was looking for an apartment in Los Angeles last year, our daughter who has a perfect score, great reference from former landlady and an income that could cover rent, was turned down dozens of times because she had a 7-pound cat. She finally found an apartment but had to pay a steep pet deposit and was a very long METRO ride to the job she had at the time. Please support these two motions. Please support all the pet families, rich and poor, in Los Angeles!