

Communication from Public

Name: Jackie M
Date Submitted: 04/27/2026 01:05 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember, As a constituent and an Angeleno who cares about our city's shelter dogs, I'm writing to urge you to fully fund the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) contract in the 2026-27 budget. DPFL playgroups are the only structured out-of-kennel time most LA shelter dogs ever get. Without them, dogs sit in concrete kennels 24 hours a day — no walks, no play, no joy. Playgroups are also how LA Animal Services learns the most important thing about every dog: how they behave with other dogs. That single data point drives adoptions, rescue pulls, and every lifesaving decision the shelter makes. The DPFL contract costs less than 1/100th of 1% of LA's \$14.85B budget. Cutting it costs the city every claim to being a Humane LA. Please restore DPFL funding before Council locks the budget June 6. Don't let this lifesaving program lapse on July 1. Thank you, [Jackie M]
[Mar Vista/Los Angeles]

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Brooks

Date Submitted: 04/27/2026 05:51 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Council File 26-0600 — FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget I am writing as a Los Angeles resident and taxpayer to express serious opposition to several cuts in the proposed FY 2026-27 budget that are not only cruel and shortsighted but fiscally counterproductive. **Los Angeles Animal Services: A Department Being Hollowed Out** This budget proposes to eliminate the Animal Services food account entirely, slash medical supplies funding from \$388,591 to under \$50,000, and cut the Dogs Playing for Life canine enrichment contract. The department itself has warned the City Council that this will force dangerous reliance on donations for basic necessities like food and medication — and that dogs deprived of exercise and socialization will become harder to adopt due to stress-related behavioral changes. Let that sink in: we are proposing to stop feeding shelter animals and let them deteriorate psychologically in their kennels — and then wonder why adoption rates decline. This comes on top of years of staffing cuts that have left Animal Services with only 49 Animal Control Officers to serve over four million residents. Seven positions were eliminated in 2024-25. Twelve more in 2025-26. Now more are on the chopping block. This is not "holding the line." This is a managed collapse. Reduced adoptability means longer shelter stays. Longer stays mean more overcrowding. More overcrowding means higher euthanasia rates. These cuts do not save money — they create a more expensive, more inhumane crisis down the road. **Safe Parking: Cutting the Cheapest Intervention We Have** The elimination of the Safe Parking program is a textbook example of penny-wise, pound-foolish budgeting. People sleeping in their vehicles are among the most stable and housing-adjacent of our unhoused population — they have a vehicle, often employment, and a fighting chance at housing with minimal intervention. Eliminating Safe Parking does not make those people disappear. It pushes them from a manageable situation into full street homelessness, where they will then require far more expensive interventions through programs like Inside Safe. This city proposes to spend \$104 million on Inside Safe while cutting the programs that keep people from needing Inside Safe in the first place. That is not a strategy. That is a contradiction. The Broader Problem Mayor Bass has characterized this as a "hold the line" budget. But what we are holding the line on is an already

depleted baseline. Last year's cuts went so deep that maintaining them is not stability — it is institutionalizing insufficiency. Streetlights take a year to repair. Roads are in worse condition than they have been in years. Animal shelters cannot afford food. And we are being asked to applaud a budget that doesn't make things worse. Los Angeles residents deserve better than a managed decline dressed up as fiscal responsibility. I urge the City Council to restore full funding to Los Angeles Animal Services — including the food account, medical supplies, and the Dogs Playing for Life enrichment contract — and to reverse the elimination of the Safe Parking program. Mary Brooks Atwater Village Council File 26-0600