

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 04/22/2026 01:31 PM

Council File No: 26-0006

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members: The mayor's proposed budget contains unacceptable cuts to animal food and medical supplies. She also decided not to fund the Dogs Playing for Life contract. In 2018-19, the animal food budget was \$520,000. This year's budget only allotted \$200,000 and when LAAS ran out just a few months into the new fiscal year, they had to start using donations from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (AWTF). Since 2020-21, the city has forced LAAS to use around \$900,000 in donations to buy food. I and many others find this shameful. Heartless. How much is the mayor spending on the Olympics upgrades to our city? Surely some of that can be reallocated for this very necessary and worthy cause that Angelenos care more about... much more. The welfare of our animal shelters is already a D-, and needs additional funding, not less. The medical supplies budget has also been slashed. In 2018-19, the department had \$488,591 to buy medical supplies. In 2022-2023 the amount was cut to \$388,591 and in the proposed budget the mayor only allotted \$49,000. These cuts have forced LAAS to use over \$740,000 in donations from the AWTF to buy medical supplies since 2019-20. The AWTF will be further depleted if these cuts are allowed to remain in place. The contract for Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) was not funded. DPFL does more than playgroups: they help terrified dogs become confident, they help match dogs with adopters, help train staff and volunteers, and help the medical team with fractious dogs. They not only save lives, they make the shelter safer for everyone. To not fund this essential program is devastating for the dogs and the people who love them. The budget is not yet final and needs to be changed by the City Council. Budget Committee MUST allocate fair funding for animal food and medical supplies, as well as Dogs Playing for Life. Angelenos want this. Very Sincerely, Carla McNellis