

Communication from Public

Name: Jeffrey Mausner

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Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached regarding the Budget Advocates Report for the Animal Services Department, Adequate funding for the Animal Services Department is a life-or-death matter for the dogs, cats, and rabbits in our City animal shelters. Sincerely, Jeffrey Mausner

Jeffrey Mausner
Tarzana, CA 91335

April 5, 2026

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

Healthy, adoptable dogs and cats are being killed in the City animal shelters because of chronic underfunding of the Animal Services Department. The Department's budget must be increased to save the lives of healthy adoptable dogs and cats and provide humane, adequate living conditions for them.

The most important funding the City can provide is for spay/neuter services. Increasing spay and neuter is the only effective and humane way to deal with the overcrowding of our animal shelters. Please see:

Failure To Provide Adequate Funding For Spay/Neuter Is "Penny Wise And 'Pound' Foolish." <https://www.citywatchla.com/animal-watch/29704-failure-to-provide-adequate-funding-for-spay-neuter-is-penny-wise-and-pound-foolish>

Crucial City Funding: Spay and Neuter Saves Money and Lives,
<https://www.citywatchla.com/369-budget-advocates/18933-crucial-city-funding-spay-and-neuter-saves-money-and-lives>

The Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates White Paper has been published and distributed to the Mayor, City Administrative Officer (CAO), and City Council. It can be accessed here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RhzdQWmrbZOezzaWo_CuFRYYmmd5B3EL/view. The Animal Services Department Report is on pages 17-24 and the Addendum is linked to in the Report.

The Animal Services Department Report contains the following recommendations. The first two deal with critical funding for spay/neuter:

Spay/Neuter and Population Control

- Fully fund the Animal Sterilization Fund and related spay/neuter programs; add an additional \$4 million over the amount requested by LAAS. [Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]
- Increase funding for the Citywide Cat Program an additional \$1 million over the amount requested by LAAS. [Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]

Shelter Operations, Staffing, and Animal Care

- Approve the full FY 2026–27 LAAS operational budget request of \$31,869,100 with no cuts (less than one fourth of one percent of the City budget).
- Restore staffing, including Animal Care Technicians (ACTs), Animal Control Officers (ACOs), veterinarians, Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs), and supervisors, to adequately and humanely care for stray, homeless, and surrendered animals; to enforce spay/neuter laws; and to provide safety in our neighborhoods.
- Continue full funding for Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL), to provide enrichment and exercise for the dogs as well as compile essential behavioral information to facilitate adoptability.
- Support the volunteer program with a dedicated Coordinator and Volunteer Liaisons, and safe staffing levels. Recruit additional volunteers to care for, socialize, and exercise the dogs, cats, rabbits, small animals, and large animal livestock (including horses). [Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]
- Fund critical shelter facility repairs, replacement, and cleaning, including continuous-flow kennel water bowls, HVAC systems, drainage, kennel repairs, and isolation medical space.
- Increase funding for food for the animals (see Addendum for Food and Medical Supplies, <https://www.tarzananc.org/assets/documents/1/committee695ad62838751.pdf>)
- Augment funding for medicine and medical supplies (see Addendum for Food and Medical Supplies, <https://www.tarzananc.org/assets/documents/1/committee695ad62838751.pdf>.)

Public Safety, Field Operations, and Community Impact

- Allocate funds to support LAAS' expanded role in coordinated field response with LAPD for dogs and cats in the Skid Row district, ensuring humane treatment, protection from abuse, and access to safe placement resources.
- Cause the State Fish and Wildlife Department to develop innovative programs to effectively and humanely deal with the significant increase of coyotes in residential neighborhoods

- Start the Reserve Animal Control Officer (RACO) program.
[Substantial long-term cost savings for the City]

Adequate funding for the Animal Services Department is a life-or-death matter for the dogs, cats, and rabbits in our City animal shelters. The modest increase recommended by the Budget Advocates for spay/neuter, representing less than .0004 of the City budget, would save lives, reduce long-term costs, and help the City meet its legal and moral responsibilities.

Sincerely, Jeff Mausner

Jeffrey Mausner

For identification purposes only:

Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Executive Committee

VANC and Tarzana NC Liaison to Los Angeles Animal Services Department

Board of Directors and 2nd Vice President, Tarzana Neighborhood Council

Chairman, Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee

Neighborhood Council Budget Representative

Volunteer, West Valley Animal Shelter

Featured Writer for CityWatchLA: [Search \(citywatchla.com\)](#)

Retired Attorney, Law Professor, and Former Federal Prosecutor, United States Department of Justice ([Link](#))

Co-Founder, Global Anti-Dog Meat Coalition (GADMC) ([Link](#))

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This comment is not submitted on behalf of the Animal Services Department.