

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 05/31/2026 12:42 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This week, the City Council Budget Committee will make critical decisions that will directly impact overcrowding and suffering at LA shelters. We need advocates, and community members to contact the five Finance and Budget Committee members before Friday's vote and show up to speak at City Council hearings on May 20. Our priorities are clear: the City must increase the proposed spay/neuter funding by at least \$1 million. This investment would support 10,000–13,000 additional surgeries annually and is one of the only real solutions to the shelter overcrowding crisis. Without expanded spay/neuter access: Shelter overcrowding will worsen Roaming and abandoned animal populations will continue to grow Intake pressure on already overwhelmed shelters will increase Increased bites as neutered dogs are three times less likely to bite than intact dogs, according to studies At the same time, the City must RESTORE the slashed funding for: Animal Food budget: Increase from the proposed \$0 to \$200,000 Medical Supplies funding: Increase from the proposed \$48,968 to \$388,591 Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) Restore \$1.53 Million for the final year of the contract. The program is one of the only ways shelter dogs get enrichment and structured time out of kennels. Food, medicine, and humane care are not optional budget line items, they are the bare minimum required to meet the City's legal and statutory obligations to animals in its custody. Denying shelter animals adequate food, medical treatment, and basic enrichment during an overcrowding crisis is inhumane and unacceptable.