

MOTION

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens has been a pillar of Los Angeles since it opened in Griffith Park in 1966, and today, is home to more than 1,600 animals. The Zoo draws an average of 1.4 million visitors each year and serves as a recreational and educational destination that serves as an important and accessible community resource that connects people with nature, builds empathy for a sustainable world, supports biodiversity, and creates a community of environmental stewardship. Currently, the Los Angeles Zoo is one of the only major zoos in the country still operated entirely by its municipal government, which is a governance structure that differs from how comparable institutions are operated.

Public-private partnerships are not a new concept for Los Angeles' cultural and educational institutions. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is governed through a public-private partnership (P3) between the County and the nonprofit Natural History Museum Foundation, which allows the museum to utilize nonprofit management and private fundraising while still preserving public ownership and receiving annual County financial support. Other treasured assets in Los Angeles that have P3 models include the Hollywood Bowl, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Music Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the California Science Center, each of which incorporates public ownership and support with private or nonprofit operation. These examples demonstrate that a restructured governance model may offer alternative pathways to foster enhanced donorship, support a nimble and flexible operating environment, and increase capital investment while the City or County retains ownership.

It is the City's responsibility to explore every responsible path toward a sustainable future for the Zoo, which starts with investment in gathering more information around whether this would be a beneficial governance structure for the City and the Zoo, and if so, how to effectively implement such a public-private partnership. Restructuring to a P3 model may offer an opportunity to enhance the Zoo's finances, modernize its facilities, and expand its standing as a top destination in Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer, with assistance from the Chief Legislative Analyst, to identify funding for the Zoo Department to retain a consultant to conduct a feasibility study that evaluates existing zoo governance models and identifies which of these models might work best for the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Zoo, along with a roadmap for implementing such a governance change, should the City determine that it is in the Zoo's best interest to do so.

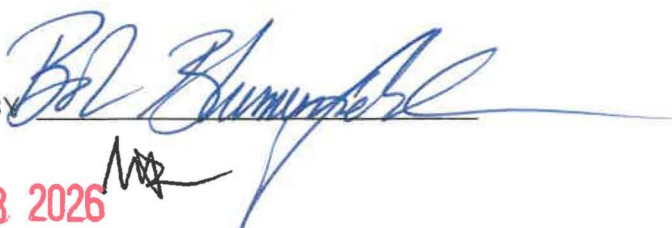
PRESENTED BY


YSABEL JURADO
Councilmember, 14th District


KATY YAROSLAVSKY
Councilwoman, 5th District

ORIGINAL

SECONDED BY


AUG 18 2026 