

MOTION

Los Angeles Animal Services shelters are workplaces and public facilities responsible for the care of vulnerable animals and serving thousands of members of the public each year. The need for dedicated security has become acute following the September 2026 act of violence at the North Central Animal Shelter, where an individual physically attacked shelter personnel and veterinary clinic staff. The incident underscores that Animal Services employees and volunteers can face unpredictable and potentially dangerous interactions while performing their duties.

Security is also necessary because Animal Services facilities have historically faced significant operational pressures, including staffing shortages and the need to serve members of the public while simultaneously caring for hundreds of animals. Dedicated security personnel could provide an important layer of protection by monitoring entrances and exits, responding to disruptive or threatening behavior, assisting employees during emergencies, and allowing Animal Control Officers and animal-care staff to focus on their core responsibilities rather than serving as de facto security personnel.

The City should therefore evaluate establishing consistent security coverage at all Los Angeles Animal Services shelters, with priority given to facilities with high public traffic, and locations with documented incidents or heightened safety concerns. Security should complement not replace adequate Animal Services staffing, emergency response protocols, cameras, radios, controlled access, and coordination with LAPD. A comprehensive security plan would help ensure that staff can safely care for animals, volunteers can serve the community, and Angelenos can access shelter services without compromising safety.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council Directs the Department of Animal Services and other Departments to report on the security needs at each of the City's six Animal Shelter locations and the associated funding that is needed.

PRESENTED BY:

For Monica Rodriguez

Monica Rodriguez

MONICA RODRIGUEZ

Councilwoman, 7th District

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SEP 09 2026

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