

Communication from Public

Name: Mayra Lombera

Date Submitted: 10/21/2026 11:32 AM

Council File No: 26-1411

Comments for Public Posting: October 21, 2026 Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: SUPPORT – Agenda Item 4 – Rodriguez-Jurado Motion (Council File 26-1411) – Animal Control Officer Staffing, Deployment, and Resource Needs Dear Chair Rodriguez and Honorable Committee Members: On behalf of the Michelson Center for Public Policy (MCP), we write in strong support of the motion introduced by Councilmember Monica Rodriguez and seconded by Councilmember Ysabel Jurado on October 6, 2026, directing the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services (LAAS) to report on its Animal Control Officer (ACO) staffing and deployment needs. Animal Control Officers play a critical role in protecting both animals and residents by responding to animal cruelty and neglect, dangerous or stray animals, and other urgent public safety concerns. Ensuring LAAS has adequate staffing and resources to respond effectively to emergencies across the City, particularly during overnight and early-morning hours, is essential to maintaining public safety and protecting animal welfare. We commend Councilmembers Rodriguez and Jurado for bringing attention to this important issue, particularly in light of the elimination of 19 Animal Control Officer positions over the past two budget cycles, including twelve positions in Fiscal Year 2024–25 and another seven in Fiscal Year 2025–26. With just 49 authorized ACO positions serving a city of more than four million residents, these reductions underscore the importance of evaluating existing staffing levels, identifying service gaps, and determining the resources necessary to meet the City's animal welfare and public safety needs. As LAAS prepares its report, we encourage the Department to consider several factors that will help inform future staffing and resource allocation decisions, including: Current staffing and vacancies: An assessment of authorized and filled positions, existing vacancies, and staffing levels across shifts. Geographic coverage and response times: An evaluation of deployment across the City, emergency response times, and service gaps, particularly during overnight and early-morning hours. Staffing and resource needs: Identification of the personnel, operational resources, and associated funding necessary to address identified gaps and ensure adequate citywide coverage. We believe this motion presents an important opportunity to move

beyond documenting existing staffing challenges and toward identifying meaningful solutions. Clear, actionable recommendations will be essential to informing future City budget decisions, restoring service capacity, and ensuring LAAS has the resources necessary to respond effectively to the needs of animals and residents throughout Los Angeles. MCPP strongly supports this motion and urges the City Council to approve it. We appreciate the leadership of Councilmembers Rodriguez and Jurado in advancing this effort and look forward to continued collaboration with the City and LAAS to strengthen animal welfare services and public safety. Sincerely, Mayra Lombero
Chief Policy Officer Michelson Center for Public Policy

October 21, 2026

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: SUPPORT – Agenda Item 4 – Rodriguez-Jurado Motion (Council File 26-1411) – Animal Control Officer Staffing, Deployment, and Resource Needs

Dear Chair Rodriguez and Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the Michelson Center for Public Policy (MCPPE), we write in **strong support** of the motion introduced by Councilmember Monica Rodriguez and seconded by Councilmember Ysabel Jurado on October 6, 2026, directing the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services (LAAS) to report on its Animal Control Officer (ACO) staffing and deployment needs.

Animal Control Officers play a critical role in protecting both animals and residents by responding to animal cruelty and neglect, dangerous or stray animals, and other urgent public safety concerns. Ensuring LAAS has adequate staffing and resources to respond effectively to emergencies across the City, particularly during overnight and early-morning hours, is essential to maintaining public safety and protecting animal welfare.

We commend Councilmembers Rodriguez and Jurado for bringing attention to this important issue, particularly in light of the **elimination of 19 Animal Control Officer positions over the past two budget cycles**, including twelve positions in Fiscal Year 2024–25 and another seven in Fiscal Year 2025–26. With just **49 authorized ACO positions serving a city of more than four million residents**, these reductions underscore the importance of evaluating existing staffing levels, identifying service gaps, and determining the resources necessary to meet the City's animal welfare and public safety needs.

As LAAS prepares its report, we encourage the Department to consider several factors that will help inform future staffing and resource allocation decisions, including:

- **Current staffing and vacancies:** An assessment of authorized and filled positions, existing vacancies, and staffing levels across shifts.
- **Geographic coverage and response times:** An evaluation of deployment across the City, emergency response times, and service gaps, particularly during overnight and early-morning hours.
- **Staffing and resource needs:** Identification of the personnel, operational resources, and associated funding necessary to address identified gaps and ensure adequate citywide coverage.

We believe this motion presents an important opportunity to move beyond documenting existing staffing challenges and toward identifying meaningful solutions. **Clear, actionable recommendations will be essential to informing future City budget decisions, restoring**

service capacity, and ensuring LAAS has the resources necessary to respond effectively to the needs of animals and residents throughout Los Angeles.

MCPD strongly supports this motion and urges the City Council to approve it. We appreciate the leadership of Councilmembers Rodriguez and Jurado in advancing this effort and look forward to continued collaboration with the City and LAAS to strengthen animal welfare services and public safety.

Sincerely,

Mayra Lomera

Chief Policy Officer

Michelson Center for Public Policy