

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz Seeks Options for Fully Funding the City's Department of Animal Services Amidst Staff Shortage

August 16, 2022 – Los Angeles, CA – Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz today introduced a motion calling for a report from the Department of Animal Services, the CAO, the CLA, and other relevant departments and stakeholders to determine the Department's budgetary needs to fully staff the City's seven animal shelters, including programmatic and departmental administrative needs.

The Department of Animal Services is one of the few City Departments whose staff is directly responsible for the care of living beings, and for the 2022-23 fiscal year it has only received enough funding from the City's General Fund to fully operate four animal shelters, despite having to operate six. The City and DAS have faced periodic surges of COVID-19 causing staffing shortages and hindering the necessary coverage to properly care for the animals at the shelters.

"While the Department has been able to maintain a high live-release rate, especially for dogs and cats, the Department has not been able to obtain the budget it needs for staffing," said Councilmember Koretz. "This summer our shelters, volunteers, and animals have felt the brunt of staffing shortages and we need to address this issue through formal budgeting. This motion is the first step to identifying sustainable long-term solutions and relief for our shelters and animals. While the current problems are more acute, this is a Department that has never been provided with an adequate budget."

"It is imperative that we as a City are doing everything we can to properly care for and protect the well-being of animals," said Councilmember John Lee, who seconded the motion. "I am proud to support this motion that will help us identify resources to meet the Department of Animal Services' budgetary needs."

The motion calls for the City departments to report back in 60 days to the City Council. Among the options suggested are considering a percentage of the City's annual General Fund expenditures, exploration of funding options including parcel tax, sales tax, general obligation bonds to obtain funding goals, and the possible creation of an oversight committee.

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