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December 21, 2015

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

Marcia Mayeda
Director of Animal Care and Control

REPORT BACK ON DETERMING THE COST OF SUBSIDIZING AND IDENTIFYING FUNDING SOURCES FOR DOG ADOPTIONS FOR A THREE-MONTH PILOT PROGRAM (ITEM NO. 34, AGENDA OF OCTOBER 20, 2015)

On October 20, 2015, a motion by Supervisor Antonovich and Supervisor Kuehl instructed the Director of Animal Care and Control (Department) and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back to the Board on: (1) identifying a three-month period of time in 2015 to determine how many dog adoptions took place; (2) identifying a comparable three-month period in 2016 for purposes of conducting a pilot program of subsidized adoptions to determine whether the number of adoptions increased from the previous year; and (3) determining the cost of subsidizing such adoptions and identifying funding sources to sustain the program.

2015 Dog Adoption Review Period

Pet adoptions were analyzed by the Department over the past fiscal year. The Department identified a number of factors that impacted the current adoption program, such as public adoptions, adoptions by rescue groups, and reduced rate adoptions. In order to respond to the Board's motion and establish a solid baseline for evaluation, the Department has initiated a holiday themed pet adoption special event. This special pet adoption event will run from December 15, 2015 through March 15, 2016. During this

period, dog adoptions will be reduced from $115 to $15 for dogs that have been at an animal care center longer than seven days. Since pricing is not a factor for the highly adoptable dogs, this program will allow the Department to focus on the dogs in most need.

At the completion of this pilot period, the Department will analyze the impact of the pilot program in terms of the number of dogs adopted, the total revenue generated, and any change in the average length of stay for dogs in the animal care centers. These results, along with recommendations for further action will be submitted to the Board.

Proposed Pilot Program Cost and Funding Sources

The Department will absorb the revenue loss during the three month pilot program (which is estimated at $100 per adopted dog). The annualized costs to fully implement this program is yet to be determined, as it is not known how much of an increase in adoptions may occur that can offset any potential revenue loss. Therefore, the Department will track all revenue generated by the program and make recommendations for subsidizing the cost of such adoptions and potential funding sources at the completion of the pilot program.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Sheila Williams, Public Safety at (213) 974-1155, or Marcia Mayeda, Animal Care and Control at (562) 728-4610.

SAH:JJ:MM
SW:CE:cc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel