



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

June 24, 2019

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

PET-FRIENDLY HOUSING (ITEM NO. 11, AGENDA OF MARCH 12, 2019)

On March 12, 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Executive Office Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI), the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC), and the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) (formerly, Community Development Commission) to report back to the Board in 90 days with a draft ordinance that would require all County-funded housing to allow residents to have pets. This memorandum serves as an interim report to inform the Board of activities carried out since approval of this motion.

To obtain a well-rounded understanding of the range of ideas associated with this motion and input to inform the drafting of an ordinance, the CEO-HI, DACC, and LACDA convened four listening sessions with various stakeholders, distributed surveys to tenants of supportive housing and to the Southern California Association of Nonprofit Housing (SCANPH) membership, and coordinated a site visit to a pet-friendly supportive housing building. Listening sessions were held with the following groups:

- The Lived Experience Advisory Board of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority;
- Members of SCANPH, including supportive housing developers and property managers;
- Local homeless service providers; and

Each Supervisor
June 24, 2019
Page 2

- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), including a tenant-rights attorney from the Housing Equality and Advocacy Resource Team which partners with ASPCA.

The most salient points from the listening sessions were:

- For people experiencing homelessness, no-pet policies pose a barrier to entering housing. People have refused housing that is not pet-friendly because they consider their pets a part of the family and their pets provide a deep source of companionship and comfort.
- Non-pet owners expressed concerns related to living in a pet-friendly building. The most common concerns were allergies and adverse pet behavior, including noise, aggression, and pet waste.
- Developers and property managers believe they should be able to adopt discretionary rules and guidelines for pet ownership within the parameters of state and federal regulations.
- Successful pet-friendly housing sites are a result of collaborative efforts between property managers, service providers, and animal welfare groups working together with pet owners.
- Access to low-cost or free resources, such as veterinary care, is essential to assisting pet owners.

CEO-HI, DACC, and LACDA have engaged County Counsel to assist with drafting a pet-friendly housing ordinance, a working draft, which will be discussed with the Homeless Policy Deputies at their July 25, 2019, Homeless Policy Deputies Meeting. At this meeting, research on existing pet-friendly housing policies at the federal, state, and local levels will also be discussed. Based on that discussion, the ordinance will be finalized by County Counsel and discussed again with the Homeless Policy Deputies before being scheduled on a Board agenda.

If you have any questions, please contact Phil Ansell, Director of the Homeless Initiative, at (213) 974-1752 or pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:FAD
PA:JR:BT:ib

c Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 Animal Care and Control
 Los Angeles County Development Authority