

Chair

Jeffrey Mausner

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



**TARZANA
NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL**

P.O. Box 571016
Tarzana, CA 91356
tnc@tarzananc.org
www.tarzananc.org

**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE AGENDA**

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:00 PM

Tarzana Child Care Center

5700 Beckford Ave.

Tarzana, CA 91356

General Public Comment: Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Committee.

Public comment by any one individual, exclusive of General Public Comment, shall be limited to a total of six (6) minutes per meeting and no more than two (2) minutes per agenda item. Public comment on any agenda item shall be allocated in one (1) minute increments. In no event shall time be allocated for less than one (1) full minute. The above time limitations are subject to adjustment by the presiding officer in conformity with the Brown Act.

Supporting documents related to the below agenda items are posted on the TNC website at <https://www.tarzananc.org/committees/viewCommittee/animal-welfare>

1. Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks.
2. Public Comments – Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction. General Public Comments are limited to two minutes per speaker.
3. Updates and discussion and possible motions on the following matters:
 - a. **Breeding Permit Moratorium.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement “For” (in favor of) Council File 23-1008, entitled “Breeding Permit Moratorium /Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) /Amendment.” The AWC also requests that the Community Impact Statement contain the following statement:

There is an **emergency** taking place regarding animals in the City. **Severe overcrowding and killing of healthy adoptable dogs in the City Animal Shelters for lack of space is an**

emergency. The overpopulation of dogs is costing the City millions of dollars. Please see: [Crucial City Funding: Spay and Neuter Saves Money and Lives \(citywatchla.com\)](http://citywatchla.com)

It is crucial that steps be taken immediately to decrease the number of dogs coming into the shelters. A moratorium on breeding permits is a necessary step in doing so, at least until this immediate emergency is resolved.

At the same time, we suggest that the City Council also take the following steps to address the overcrowding emergency:

1. Encourage spay/neuter of pets by increasing funding for more free and discounted spay/neuter vouchers and increasing the amount veterinarians are paid for performing spay/neuters under the vouchers. The amount of payment to vets pursuant to the vouchers is ridiculously low and, as a result, there are not enough vets willing to perform spay/neuters under the vouchers. Increasing the availability of vouchers and raising the fees paid to veterinarians to encourage them to perform spay/neuters is a necessary step in solving the emergency.
 2. Deploy an advertising/email/social media campaign for spay/neuter vouchers. As part of this campaign, make clear that the City is going to **start enforcing spay/neuter laws more vigorously, much more vigorously**. Publicize that you can use a free or discounted spay/neuter voucher to avoid a severe fine. There should be severe fines for failure to spay/neuter, with minimal or no waivers.
 3. Use the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter in Mission Hills and the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter in South L.A. on an emergency basis to house dogs from overcrowded shelters. Call for all experienced former volunteers to return to help care for the animals there. Bringing back former volunteers who were wrongfully terminated or left because they were mistreated will not only allow this to be done at the lowest cost for the City, but it can also resolve the ongoing issues and avoid potential litigation regarding the former volunteers.
- b. Requiring landlords and building managers to allow any companion animal already residing in a rental dwelling unit to continue residing there.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 21-0042-S6 which will require landlords and building managers to allow any companion animal **already residing in a rental dwelling unit** to continue residing there.
- c. Reporting and Overhaul of the Animal Shelter System, including Conditions, Care of Animals, Adoption Preparation, Budget Reporting, Staffing, Volunteer Program, etc.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 23-0926 which provides for submission of reports by the Department of Animal Services (DAS), and an overhaul of operations of DAS in the following areas: conditions in the shelters, care of the animals, overcrowded and unclean kennels and cages, dogs going weeks or months without walks or other exercise, animals not receiving adequate care and behavioral preparation for adoption, providing dog training, increasing the budget of the DAS, increasing staffing, increasing the number of volunteers, protecting shelter animals from extreme heat, spay/neuter promotion, and other matters.
- d. Prohibiting Use of the Animal Sterilization Fund for Staff Salaries and Benefits Not Directly Related to the Delivery or Performance of Animal Sterilization Services.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 19-0543, which will prohibit use of the Animal Sterilization Fund for

staff salaries and benefits not directly related to the delivery or performance of animal sterilization services or other designated purposes.

- e. **Budget of the Department of Animal Services.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 22-0943, which instructs the Department of Animal Services, the CAO (City Administrative Officer), the CLA (Chief Legislative Analyst), and any other relevant departments and stakeholders to determine the budgetary needs for the Department of Animal Services to fully staff seven animal shelters and all programmatic and departmental administrative needs and report back to the City Council in 60 days with that information.
Please see: [Mayor Bass Wants to Improve the LA Animal Services Department, Secure Additional Funding \(citywatchla.com\)](#)
- f. **Additional Staffing for the Department of Animal Services.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 22-1187 and the report of the Interim General Manager Annette Ramirez in response, requesting additional staffing for the Department of Animal Services to ensure that all dogs in its shelters are regularly exercised and properly attended to.
- g. **Better Coordination Between the Department of Animal Services and General Services Department to Repair Broken Kennels at the Animal Shelters.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution requesting the Department of Animal Services and General Services Department better coordinate efforts to repair broken kennels and other items at the Animal Shelters. Broken guillotine doors separating portions of the dog kennels, broken locks, and other needed repairs not only make it more difficult to care for and take animals out of the kennels, they also constitute a safety hazard for volunteers and employees. One suggestion is for a list of broken items to be kept in the volunteer office at each shelter, and for a General Services truck to visit each shelter every week for those repairs to be made. The resolution will be sent to the General Managers and/or other employees/managers of the Department of Animal Services and General Services Department.
- h. **Increase The Number Of Dogs and Cats A Person May Own.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution requesting the City Council to introduce a resolution increasing the number of dogs and cats a person or family can own or foster.
- i. **Rodeo Ban.** Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee (TNC AWC) requests that the TNC Board pass a resolution requesting the City Council to introduce a resolution prohibiting rodeos in the City of Los Angeles.
- j. **Opposition to the Dog and Cat Meat Trade.** Please see: [Progress on Banning Dog Meat In South Korea! \(citywatchla.com\)](#)
- k. Sepulveda Basin Dog Park and proposed bike path.
- l. Department of Animal Services Budget; Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 23-24.

- m. Northeast Valley Animal Shelter.
- n. Volunteers at the City Animal Shelters. Terminated volunteers. Please see: [Animal Shelter Volunteers Win First Round In Fight For First Amendment Rights \(citywatchla.com\)](#)
New volunteers. Please see: [Why Does L.A. Animal Services Reject Thousands of Volunteer Applications? \(citywatchla.com\)](#)
- o. Staycee Dains, New General Manager for the Department of Animal Services.
- p. Lists of dogs and cats promulgated by the Department of Animal Services (Red, Yellow, Euthanasia, Blue, Orange Lists, etc.)
- q. City provided dog training.
- r. Community Cat Program.
- s. Status of No-Kill.
- t. Fox Tail plants. [Alert! If You Have a Dog or Cat, Watch Out for Foxtail Plants \(citywatchla.com\)](#)
- u. Fireworks. Please see: [ALERT! Your Dog and the 4th of July \(citywatchla.com\)](#)

Discussion and possible motions regarding the above matters. (Not all of the above matters will be dealt with, depending on time.)

4. Committee Business - Comment from Committee members on subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction.

- a. Comment on Committee members' own activities/brief announcements.
- b. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.
- c. Introduce new issues for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting and to request they be considered for the next Committee agenda.

5. Adjournment.

For more information about the Tarzana Neighborhood Council visit our web site at www.tarzananc.org. For more information about the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee please visit our web site at [Animal Welfare Committee \(tarzananc.org\)](#). For information about dogs, cats, and rabbits available at the West Valley Animal Shelter, please visit: <https://www.laanimalservices.com/search/pets>

For more information about the Tarzana Neighborhood Council visit our web site at www.tarzananc.org As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: NCsupport@lacity.org

Notice to Paid Representatives - If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org

Tarzana Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows: Wilbur Charter For Enriched Academics 5213 Crebs Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356. On the neighborhood council website www.tarzananc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.tarzananc.org/committees/viewCommittee/board>, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact us at tnc@tarzananc.org.

Any materials that may be distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the above scheduled meeting are available for review by the public at 19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335 or on our website at www.tarzananc.org
Process for Reconsideration – Reconsideration of Board actions shall be in accordance with the Tarzana Neighborhood Council bylaws.