

Communication from Public

Name: Jeffrey Mausner
Date Submitted: 08/11/2026 12:56 PM
Council File No: 26-0582
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached statement that was made to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners at its meeting on August 11, 2026, during public comment:

Statement to the Animal Services Commission regarding City Council File 26-0582, 8-11-2026.

Good morning. Jeff Mausner, speaking in my individual capacity. I'll do items 3C, 5, 6 and general comment.

Today, the City Council is considering Council File 26-0582. It is a motion instructing the Animal Services Department to report on the feasibility of an established animal care and control organization operating one or more of the City animal shelters, similar to what is being done in Mission Hills. In other words, the City would be studying the feasibility of privatizing one or more additional City shelters.

The stated reason for this is that conditions at City-operated shelters are unsatisfactory due to extreme overcrowding and staffing shortages, and the City's current financial situation.

I don't object to a report on the feasibility of this proposal. This could be a positive development if it results in additional resources, improved shelter operations, and better care for the animals. On the other hand, it could be problematic if it simply becomes a way to reduce costs without providing adequate resources, resulting in even less care for the animals.

The motion states that any proposal should prevent the loss of existing jobs, an important consideration. It would also be a **significant positive** if any proposal included **additional funding for spay and neuter programs**, which would help address the overcrowding that is the main reason this proposal is being considered.

There is an important lesson from what happened in 2020 which some of you may not know about. The Animal Services Department tried to privatize the West Valley Shelter by converting it into a Community Resource Center to be run by rescue organizations. Before launching that proposal, the Department did not seek meaningful input from Neighborhood Councils. The Neighborhood Councils organized against it, passed Community Impact Statements opposing it, and the proposal was ultimately stopped. [CF 20-1114]

Rather than repeat that experience, I strongly suggest that the Department seek input from Neighborhood Councils early, and also input from shelter volunteers, employees, rescue organizations, and others affected by any proposed changes.

As I said, this proposal could be good or bad. But if the Department involves these groups, especially Neighborhood Councils, while the proposal is being developed, rather than after decisions have already been made, it will have a

much better chance of producing a good plan that improves animal care and has community support.

Thank you.

Jeffrey Mausner

For identification purposes:

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This comment is not submitted on behalf of the Animal Services Department.