

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

On May 27, 2008, the City Controller released an audit report entitled "Audit of Revenues and Expenditures at the Department of Animal Services," which contains several recommendations to improve the Department's current practices.

The Controller estimates that Animal Services only licenses approximately 15 to 30 percent of the City's dog population. Methods identified to boost licensing include further outreach to pet shops and breeders to notify the Department of dog sales, and re-instituting or modifying the reimbursement program for veterinarians to issue licenses.

The audit found that Animal Services does not pursue collection of delinquent accounts, which may cost the City up to \$800,000 per year in lost revenue. In addition, the Department does not impose the \$500 fee prescribed by the Municipal Code for dog owners that fail to renew their licenses.

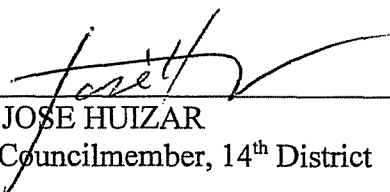
Existing staffing shortages at Animal Services may limit compliance with the Controller's recommendations. The City should examine ways to dedicate a portion of any additional revenue generated by the Department to fund necessary staffing to successfully implement the Controller's recommendations.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Animal Services Department be instructed to report to Council's Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee within 30 days with a detailed response to the Controller's "Audit of Revenues and Expenditures at the Department of Animal Services" that addresses each of the Controller's recommendations and also includes the following: (1) a timeline to successfully implement each recommendation, and (2) methods to increase the number of registered dogs in the City.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Office of Finance be instructed to assist the Animal Services Department to address the Controller's recommendations on the following issues: (1) compliance with City guidelines on pursuing delinquent accounts, and (2) re-evaluation of the \$500 penalty for non-registration prescribed by the Municipal Code that is currently not assessed.

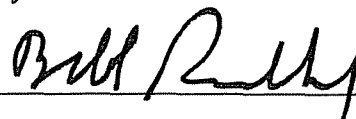
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer be instructed to report on potential methods to ensure that a portion of any additional revenue generated by Animal Services is dedicated to funding the necessary staffing to fully implement the Controller's recommendations.

PRESENTED BY:



JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY:



08-1371

