

# PUBLIC SAFETY

JUL 31 2007

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## MOTION

On July 20, 2007, the Department of Animal Services issued a press release announcing the grand opening of "The Pit Bull Training Academy." The Academy will be a partnership between Animal Services and the Villalobos Rescue Center, which is the largest Pit Bull training program in the United States. The Academy will house, train, and rehabilitate many of the City's lost and homeless Pit Bulls. It will be the nation's first public/private training academy for Pit Bull dogs.

The press release states that the South LA Animal Care Center Annex building is being transformed to house the Academy. In addition, Academy staff will be parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation who are specially trained by the Villalobos Rescue Center to rehabilitate Pit Bulls. While this venture seems fully developed, the full extent of the City's commitment of public resources to the Academy is unclear.

The grand opening of the Pit Bull Training Academy is scheduled for this Saturday, August 4, 2007. Since the Council has not had an opportunity to consider the value and appropriateness of the program, these issues should be addressed prior to the Academy's grand opening.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Animal Services provide a comprehensive report to Council before the date of the Pit Bull Training Academy's grand opening. The report should include, but not be limited to:

- How the Department became involved with the program, the cost to the City for the program, whether it is intended to be ongoing, and any liability to the City.
- Whether the Council was involved in the decision to create this public/private enterprise.
- The decision-making process for using parolees to staff this enterprise over City employees or community volunteers.
- Whether SEIU or any other employee union was consulted regarding staffing for this program.

PRESENTED BY

  
DENNIS ZINE

Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY



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