

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Friday, April 13, 2007

Members: Councilmember Greg Smith, Chair  
Councilmember Herb Wesson, Jr.  
Councilmember Dennis P. Zine

File Number: 07-0002-S65

Subject (4): Chief Legislative Analyst to report relative to the City's position on Assembly Bill 1634 (Levine), the California Healthy Pets Act, prohibiting any person from owning or possessing any unaltered cat or dog over the age of four months, unless that person possesses a permit issued annually by a local jurisdiction that authorizes ownership or possession of an unaltered dog or cat, pursuant to Resolution (Cardenas-Wesson).

Councilmember Wesson: I do want to go on the record saying that I whole-heartedly support this, and this is the reason why I came back. I'm a dog lover. And you know that unconditional love is what you get when you have a pet. And it breaks my heart to know that so many of them have to be put to sleep as we call it. Anything that we can do to reduce that and bring us to a point where we don't have to put animals down, I support that. I think this is very helpful.

Councilmember Zine: I just want to say that during my election, people said I was anti-animal, and this and that. It really offended me because I've had animals my entire life. And I'm totally supportive of this. I think this should have been implemented years ago. With "Johnny come lately" to this, it's humanitarian that as we talk about a woman's right to choose, which I support, that we talk about this issue. This is basic; I mean this is absolutely basic. Both Mr. Smith and I are reserved police officers and I work South Los Angeles many times. I can't tell you how many dogs are running the streets, eating out of trashcans in the alleys that are abandoned. I mean it's just pathetic how many dogs are abandoned in South Los Angeles. It's an epidemic that Animal Services has to address. Just a couple of days ago, I was driving down the street and there just happens to be an Animal Services truck, and this dog was just going on the Ventura freeway. So he stops, and I stop. There were two dogs actually, and they looked like purebreds. This was at night. So we stopped traffic, got the dogs and tried to corral them, but couldn't. We got them off the freeway, at least. They could have been killed on the freeway. Whether they were abandoned or escaped from home, I personally and I'm sure Mr. Smith have compassion for this. I can't see anyone logically that would be against something so basic that says how are we going to address this continuing problem. And we've got 60% of the animals that Animal Services captures, being slaughtered. They are sent to the death chamber. It is outrageous. I totally support this and I thank you all for being here.

Councilmember Smith: With that, I totally concur with everything my colleague said, and particularly with Mr. Wesson who is our great champion of the Council on this issue. We can never do enough to help the animals, so I fully support what you are saying here. There is one question that I wish to discuss with Mr. Boks later and that is the health impact. I will talk to you later about that, but I doubt that it is going to change my mind. I fully support this. I look at the number of organizations that testified here today, many of which I have worked with over the years, man I have great respect for, versus one opponent organization. That says a lot to me. So this will go for the recommendation of the Committee for unanimous support. Thank you.