

May 7, 2019

Mayor and City Council,

My name is Patricia Turner. I'm the director of No Kill Long Beach.

Before I start, I'd like to clarify that No Kill in no way requires closed or limited admissions. It does not turn animals away, and closed or limited admissions are in NOT an inevitable result of No Kill. **"No Kill" is defined as saving all healthy and treatable animals in a shelter through effective programs.** This is typically taken to be 90% of animals; however, many cities are now saving 92-99% of their shelter animals.

No Kill Long Beach opposes Compassion Saves (CS) because it does not address the key problems that are actively blocking LBACS' operations. First, it does not address the issue raised in the audits of the constraints that SpcaLA continues to place on LBACS. City staff have told advocates that SpcaLA will not allow LBACS to have its own adoption program, **yet a comprehensive and autonomous adoption program is absolutely crucial for the city shelter to operate to scale and meet the needs of the residents of Long Beach.** The audits recommended that the City **review and formalize** the operational agreement, which is verbal only, between LBACS and SpcaLA. We believe that this agreement must **not only** be formalized: **it must establish LBACS' autonomy from SpcaLA** so that LBACS can be a fully-operational, effective, lifesaving shelter that aligns with the humane values of the people of Long Beach. Without this **key provision**, instituting LBACS' autonomy, the programs that LBACS puts forth will continue to be undercut by SpcaLA.

Secondly, Compassion Saves claims not to euthanize healthy animals; however, there are loopholes. Without a fully-implemented, autonomous adoption program, animals languish in their cages and become ill. Then they are **treatable**. CS states that treatable animals will only be euthanized after "an aggressive search for a positive outcome." However, we have seen in recent months the euthanasia of several animals at LBACS for whom an aggressive search was not pursued. Compassion saves has limitations that exist for PURELY political reasons: Namely to appease SpcaLA, which fully endorses Compassion Saves. That alone should give those who care about animals in the audience today CAUSE for CONCERN.

Furthermore, at the April 16 meeting, numerous mischaracterizations of No Kill were made on the dais, and knowledgeable members of the public had only minutes to refute those inaccurate statements. A full presentation by an authority on No Kill sheltering has never been given the time to talk about No Kill by this Council. Yet, overwhelmingly, the public in Long Beach wants a No Kill shelter.

Therefore, we ask that you delay the vote presented this evening and ask that a national authority on No Kill animal sheltering be given time to make a formal presentation to City Council and answer questions from Council AND the public, the majority of whom support No Kill programs and policies at the Long Beach Animal Care Services shelter.

Thank you.