

February 20, 2020

CHAIR AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Council find the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act in accordance with Article 5, Section 15061; and recommend that the City Council adopt an Ordinance amending Title 6 of the Long Beach Municipal Code ("Animals") to incorporate provisions relating to the number of, and maintenance of, household pets that may be kept by a residential household; and recommend approval of Zoning Code Amendment ZCA20-002 repealing Section 21.51.210 of the zoning code to remove the provisions that currently regulate the number of, and maintenance, of household pets that may be kept by a residential household. (Citywide)

APPLICANT: City of Long Beach Animal Care Services
c/o Staycee Dains
7700 E. Spring Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
(Application No. 2001-08)

DISCUSSION

On May 7, 2019, the City Council requested the City Manager to work with the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department staff to implement the Compassion Saves model as the operational approach for Long Beach Animal Care Services (LBACS). In response the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department recommended regulatory changes in support of its implementation of the Compassion Saves model. These changes included amending the Municipal Code regulations pertaining to the maximum number of household pets. On January 21, 2019, the City Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance to increase the number of allowable household pets from four to six (Exhibit A - Compassion Saves Next Steps Memo). The proposed change is part of a proactive effort to manage the number of dogs and cats in the City's care. Matters related to animal care are not established within the zoning code. However, the standards related to the number of household pets is set forth within Zoning Code (Title 21) of the LBMC.



Amend and Relocate Household Pet Regulations

The LBMC, Section 21.51.210, establishes a limitation on household pets to no more than four (4) weaned household pets allowed at one (1) site. The proposed amendment will increase the amount of weaned household pets to six (6) (Exhibit B - Proposed Title 21 Amendment).

Household Pet Regulations

The proposed amendment includes relocating the regulations pertaining to household pets to Title 6, under Chapter 6.16, Animal Regulation, as the regulations of household pets are a licensing matter and staff finds that it would be more appropriate to be reestablished under Title 6, which is administered by Animal Care Services.

Although the LBMC does not contain specific findings for the adoption of a zoning code amendment, California Government Code, Section 65860, establishes that a zoning ordinance shall be consistent with the adopted General Plan. The City of Long Beach makes the following findings in support of its adoption of changes to the zoning code amendment:

The proposed regulations are not fundamentally a matter of land use and are a matter of permitting which is not customarily subject to the Planning Commission's authority. The proposed changes to the code are not in conflict with General Plan as the amendment will modify the existing regulation by increase the maximum number of household pets from four to six animals and relocating the standard in Title 21 to Tile 6 where the current Animal Regulations exists under the oversight and administration of the Animal Care Services Division (Exhibit C – Findings).

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The required public hearing notice was provided in accordance with the Long Beach Municipal Code. A public hearing notice was published in the Long Beach Press Telegram. No comments have been received as of the preparation of this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Article 5, Section 15061 and the State CEQA Guidelines, it can be seen with certainty that the subject modifications to the City's Municipal Code noted above will not have the potential for having a significant effect upon the environment, and therefore the is not subject to CEQA.

Respectfully submitted,



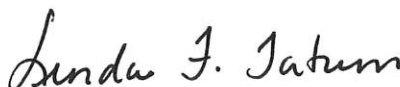
NICK VASUTHASAWAT
PROJECT PLANNER



ALEXIS OROPEZA
CURRENT PLANNING OFFICER



CHRISTOPHER KOONTZ, AICP
PLANNING BUREAU MANAGER



LINDA F. TATUM, FAICP
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

LT:CK:AO:nv

Attachments: Exhibit A – Compassion Saves Next Steps Memo
 Exhibit B – Proposed Title 21 Amendment
 Exhibit C – Findings