Communication from Public

Name:	Jeffrey Mausner
Date Submitted:	06/20/2026 03:23 PM
Council File No:	25-0193
Comments for Public Posting:	Please see the attached letter to City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, cc to Maurice Johnson and Yohanna Gaines, Legislative Deputies.

Jeffrey N. Mausner
Tarzana, CA

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
President of the Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson:

The Global Anti-Dog Meat Coalition (GADMC) strongly supports the request by Councilman Blumenfield to waive committee consideration of Council File 25-0193.

Thank you for your support of Council File 19-0002-S101, the first City Council Resolution requesting the governments of China, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, and Indonesia to ban the sale of dog meat and to enforce their animal cruelty laws, which was passed by City Council in 2019. Committee consideration of that Council File was waived and it passed Council unanimously. That Resolution played a role in the unanimous vote of South Korea's National Assembly to ban dog meat nationwide in January 2024. Please see: *KoreanDogs.org – LA Council Passes Resolution Asking South Korea to Stop the Dog Meat Trade* (which mentions your vote in favor);

South Korean Lawmakers Applauded for Historic Ban of Country's Dog Meat Trade;

SFV Resident Plays Vital Role in South Korea's Ban on Dog Meat Consumption.

It took a while, but your support for 19-0002-S101 finally had a positive result in South Korea, helping to save the lives of millions of dogs! It will have a further positive result in Vietnam with the passage of 25-0193!

Thank you for seconding Council File 25-0193, which will help end dog and cat meat in Vietnam!!! Please see *Five Million Dogs and Cats Desperately Need Saving in Vietnam.* As stated in that article, approximately 5 million dogs are brutally killed each year for dog meat in Vietnam. That's more than 13,000 dogs a day. Dogs are beaten to death, hanged, bled out from a cut to the throat or groin, thrown conscious into large drums of boiling water, and killed in other cruel ways. Prior to their deaths, the dogs are kept and transported in unimaginably horrible conditions. In addition, one million cats are also killed and eaten in Vietnam each year.

That is the reason expedition of this matter, by waiving committee consideration, is necessary. **There is *overwhelming* public support for Council File 25-0193, which states: "As part of the City's discussions to establish a sister city relationship with Hanoi, the City's representatives and negotiators should keep in mind the policy set forth in Council File 19-0002-S 101." There are now well over 2,700 Public Comments which have been submitted in support of the Motion in Council File 25-0193. The Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) has passed a Resolution and Community Impact Statement in support of this**

Council File. The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) unanimously passed a resolution in support: VANC Resolution supporting the Sister City Project to End Dog and Cat Meat in Vietnam.

Prior to introduction of 25-0193, more than 9,000 people signed a petition from the organization In Defense of Animals asking that the Sister City/Dog and Cat Meat resolution be introduced. The petition is entitled *Los Angeles & California Must Help End the Brutal Killing of Millions of Dogs & Cats in Vietnam.* The petition can be accessed HERE.

It is rare that there is this level of overwhelming public support for a City Council motion. Two important points regarding 25-0193:

1. This motion will not cost the City anything, and will in fact be economically beneficial for the City, with increased opportunities for business and commerce; travel and tourism; educational and cultural exchanges; cooperation and investments in science, technology, agriculture, and energy; and many other benefits.

2. This isn't culturally insensitive. That miscomprehends what we are doing and what Vietnamese culture is. The dog and cat meat trades are more economic than cultural. There are people in Vietnam who make money from dog and cat meat, and it is they who are keeping the practice going. The Sister City Proposal provides an economic incentive as a counterbalance, negating any money perceived to be lost from ending the dog and cat meat trade.

A poll conducted in Vietnam by the organization Four Paws found that *95% of Vietnamese think that eating dog and cat meat is **not** part of Vietnamese culture.* A recent Nielsen opinion poll (Aug – Sept 2023) commissioned by Humane Society International (HSI) found that *68% of respondents in Vietnam support a ban on the dog meat trade and 71% support banning the cat meat trade.*

The HSI poll is mentioned here: https://www.humaneworld.org/en/news/viet-nam-must-end-dog-meat-trade-if-prime-ministers-directive-tackle-rabies-succeed-warns

Four Paws is mentioned here: https://vietnamnet.vn/en/most-vietnamese-want-ban-on-trade-of-dog-and-cat-meat-survey-811172.html and

https://www.four-paws.org/our-stories/press-releases/june-2024/nationwide-tour-vietnam-dog-cat-meat-trade

Offering Vietnam an economic incentive and cultural partnership is more culturally sensitive than merely sending them a petition asking them to stop dog and cat meat, which has been done on numerous occasions and is completely ineffective. If we don't provide this sister city incentive, it will be years, if ever, for a dog and cat meat ban in Vietnam because of the economic interests supporting it and the inability of animal rights activists to effectively demonstrate against it.

The new United States Strategic Policy toward Vietnam, initiated by President Biden and the leader of Vietnam, encourages sister city relationships, but we cannot have a sister city relationship that violates Los Angeles' animal welfare policy. See:

https://www.citywatchla.com/animal-watch/29620-five-million-dogs-and-cats-desperately-need-saving-in-vietnam We are not forcing anything on Vietnam; if Hanoi doesn't want to accept our offer, they can reject it.

Further information regarding 25-0193, the dog and cat meat trades in Vietnam, and the Sister City Project to End Dog and Cat Meat in Vietnam can be found in the above cited CityWatch article.

Please waive committee consideration of Council File 25-0193 to expedite passage. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this or have any questions.

Respectfully submitted, *Jeffrey N. Mausner*

Jeffrey Mausner
For identification purposes:
Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC) Executive Committee
VANC and Tarzana NC Liaison to Los Angeles Animal Services Department
Board of Directors and 2nd Vice President, Tarzana Neighborhood Council
Chairman, Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee
Neighborhood Council Budget Representative
Volunteer, West Valley Animal Shelter
Featured Writer for CityWatchLA: Search (citywatchla.com)
Retired Attorney, Law Professor, and Former Federal Prosecutor, United States Department of Justice (Link)
California Legislature Special Commendation, 2024 (Link)
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This email is not sent on behalf of the Animal Services Department.

cc: Maurice Johnson and Yohanna Gaines, Legislative Deputies for City Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson