Gmail Council President Harris-Dawson

Jeffrey Mausner <jeffmausner@gmail.com>

Please Agendize and Vote in Favor of CF 25-0193, the Sister City Motion to End the Dog and Cat Meat Trade in Vietnam

Jeffrey Mausner <jeffmausner@gmail.com> Tue, Apr 21, 2026 at 2:30 PM
To: councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org
Cc: brayan.lopez@lacity.org, Maurice Johnson <maurice.johnson@lacity.org>, Yohanna Gaines <yohanna.gaines@lacity.org>, rhoda.bruton@lacity.org
Bcc: Jeffrey Mausner <JeffMausner@gmail.com>, bob.blumenfield@lacity.org, Madelynn Taras <madelynn.taras@lacity.org>, Jake Flynn <jake.flynn@lacity.org>

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson, I hope you are doing well.

I respectfully and strongly urge you to agendize and vote in favor of Council File 25-0193, the Sister City motion encouraging the City of Hanoi, Vietnam, to end the dog and cat meat trades. I understand that Councilmember Blumenfield has asked you to agendize it, and I hope you will do so for the May 1 meeting of the Rules Committee. Alternatively, I ask that you waive committee consideration, as Councilmember Blumenfield requested over a year ago.

A concise overview of the issue is available here:
Five Million Dogs and Cats Desperately Need Saving in Vietnam
https://www.citywatchla.com/animal-watch/29620-five-million-dogs-and-cats-desperately-need-saving-in-vietnam

Each year, approximately 5 million dogs and 1 million cats are killed in Vietnam for the dog and cat meat trades, more than 13,000 dogs every day. The article above describes the brutal methods used and the horrific conditions in which these animals are kept. Los Angeles has a real opportunity to help end this cruelty, just as we helped encourage the end of the dog meat trade in South Korea.

Background and Prior Council Action
As you may recall, in 2019, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously passed Resolution CF 19-0002-S101, signed by the Mayor, making it the official position of the City to oppose the dog meat trade worldwide, including specifically in Vietnam.

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. 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!!! CF 25-0193 applies Los Angeles' existing policy to help end dog and cat meat within the context of a potential Sister City relationship.

The Sister City Proposal
The idea is straightforward: Los Angeles does not currently have a Sister City in Vietnam. In September 2023, President Biden and the leader of Vietnam entered into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which encourages Sister City relationships. A Sister City relationship with Hanoi would bring economic, cultural, educational, scientific, and tourism benefits to both cities. Because Los Angeles already has an official policy opposing dog meat in Vietnam, the Sister City relationship should include discussions on Hanoi agreeing to phase out dog and cat meat. This is a positive, cooperative, incentive-based approach, not a confrontation.

Addressing Concerns Raised
1. The language in CF 25-0193 is respectful and not "in your face." The motion contains only one sentence on the issue, and it does not explicitly mention dog or cat meat directly. It simply 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-S101." This is measured, diplomatic, and entirely appropriate.

2. The motion is not culturally insensitive.
Surveys conducted in Vietnam show overwhelming support for ending the dog and cat meat trades:

68% of Vietnamese citizens support banning the dog meat trade (Nielsen survey, 2023)
71% of Vietnamese citizens support banning the cat meat trade (Nielsen survey, 2023)

95% of Vietnamese believe eating dog and cat meat is not part of Vietnamese culture (Four Paws survey)

The dog and cat meat trades persist because of economic interests, not cultural identity. The people of Vietnam are not free to protest and demonstrate against it, as was the case in South Korea. The Sister City proposal provides a positive economic incentive to help Vietnam do what the vast majority of its own citizens already want. Without this incentive to help the people of Vietnam, the dog and cat meat trade will most likely continue for many years, resulting in the continuing brutal deaths of millions of dogs and cats.

3. The motion has no fiscal impact and is in fact economically beneficial for both cities. Sister City relationships promote: Business and trade, Tourism, Educational and cultural exchange, Cooperation in science, technology, agriculture, and energy. Ending the dog and cat meat trades is also supported by international tourism and business organizations concerned with global reputation and public health.

4. This motion does not dishonor Vietnam Veterans.
I have the greatest respect for Vietnam Veterans and am deeply grateful for their service. Several Vietnam Veterans have publicly expressed support for CF 25-0193. Their statements appear in the following film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBaFiQt0ihE
(This film was made when Mayor Bass had put a hold on 25-0193. She has since stated that there is no hold on 25-0193 and she wants the motion to go forward.)

Public Support in Los Angeles
There is extraordinary, overwhelming public support for CF 25-0193:

14,904 people emailed the Mayor in support, through In Defense of Animals.
Over 3,000 public comments have been submitted in support of CF 25-0193.
Three Neighborhood Councils (including mine in Tarzana) have filed Community Impact Statements in support.
VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils) passed a resolution in support.
More than 36,000 people have signed a *Lady Freethinker petition* in support.
A prominent Vietnamese American businesswoman, attorney, and pediatric dentist also appears in the film mentioned above, supporting CF 25-0193.

There is broad, diverse, and sustained support across Los Angeles for 25-0193, including in your district.

In light of the strong public support, the beneficial economic effects, the alignment with the 2019 Council Resolution and the U.S.-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic

Partnership, and the clear evidence that this motion reflects the views of the Vietnamese public, as well as the other factors set forth in the article cited above, I respectfully ask you to agendize the motion and vote YES on CF 25-0193.

Helping the people of Vietnam stop the suffering and deaths of million of dogs and cats is very important. By voting YES on 25-0193, you will be helping to save the lives of millions of dogs and cats. If you have any questions or any doubts about the motion, I would be grateful if you would call me so we can discuss it. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely, Jeff 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)
Co-Founder, Global Anti-Dog Meat Coalition (GADMC) (Link)
California Legislature Special Commendation, 2024 (Link)
Recipient, 2023 Guardian of the Animals Award - In Defense of Animals (Link)
Website: www.MausnerLaw.com
Email: JeffMausner@gmail.com; J.Mausner@TarzanaNC.org
Cell Phone: (310) 617-8100
This email is not sent on behalf of the Animal Services Department.