



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

CITY HALL
8300 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA
90069-6216
TEL: (323) 848-6460
FAX: (323) 848-6562

TTY: For hearing impaired
(323) 848-6496

CITY COUNCIL

LAUREN MEISTER
Mayor

JOHN HEILMAN
Mayor Pro Tempore

JOHN D'AMICO
Councilmember

JOHN J. Duran
Councilmember

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Councilmember

May 5, 2017

The Honorable Adrin Nazarian
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 4146
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Nazarian:

RE: AB 1199, Police-Canine Encounters Protection Act – SUPPORT

The City of West Hollywood supports AB 1199 that would require mandatory in-service canine encounter training for California peace officers. On May 1, 2017, the West Hollywood City Council unanimously adopted Resolution #17-4947 in support of AB 1199. The resolution is attached.

Too many dogs, especially family dogs, have been tragically killed unexpectedly by law enforcement officers investigating residential calls/complaints. There is a need both to protect family pets, as well as assure that police officers feel safe in the line of duty. The California peace officers training mandated in AB 1199 will provide state and local peace officers with the necessary tools to protect themselves and to capably and effectively handle encounters with family dogs.

The City of West Hollywood has a long history of supporting measures that promote the protection of animal rights, and the City is often recognized as one of the most animal-friendly cities in the nation. In 2002, the City amended its city code to refer to animals like dogs and cats as "companions" rather than "pets." In 2003, the City officially prohibited the declawing of cats, becoming the first city in the U.S. to implement such a ban. Several other California cities followed suit in 2009. Most recently, the City has implemented an education campaign that provides placement of permanent signage to remind the community of the dangers of leaving children and pets unattended in a parked car during warmer weather.

The City of West Hollywood thanks you for your efforts in assuring that peace officers' get the proper training when encountering a dog so that they remain safe and family dogs are protected.

Respectfully,

Lauren Meister
MAYOR

Cc: Hon Benjamin Allen, SD 26
Hon Richard Bloom, AD 50

RESOLUTION NO. 17-4947

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IN SUPPORT OF AB
1199 (NAZARIAN), THE POLICE-CANINE
ENCOUNTERS PROTECTION ACT

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES
HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice estimate, police officers shoot and kill more than 10,000 pet dogs in the United States every year; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of dog bites are down, but lethal force is sometimes still used by law enforcement officers when there are alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the "Police-Canine Encounters Protection Act", AB 1199, introduced by Assembly Member Adrian Nazarian (D-Van Nuys), requires mandatory in-service canine encounter training to California peace officers on how to both quickly and safely respond to unexpected situations when encountering a dog in order to protect themselves as well as the animal; and

WHEREAS, the Police-Canine Encounters Protection Act training will include: understanding the behavior and body language of dogs; tactical considerations and best practices during encounters involving dogs; safe and appropriate use of non-lethal force in handling dog encounters; and supplementary training two years after the original training; and

WHEREAS, Texas, Colorado, and other jurisdictions have mandated similar training programs and successfully reduced the number of dog shootings while protecting the officers involved; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood has a long history of supporting measures that promote the protection of animal rights, and the City is often recognized as one of the most animal-friendly cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby supports AB 1199, the Police-Canine Encounters Protection Act.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 1st day of May, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	D'Amico, Duran, Horvath, Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, and Mayor Meister.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.



LAUREN MEISTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



YVONNE QUARKER, CITY CLERK