



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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CITY COUNCIL

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Councilmember

LAUREN MEISTER
Councilmember

September 19, 2017

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

RE: AB 1137 (Maienschein) Housing developments: pet permissibility – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

The City of West Hollywood supports AB 1137 (Maienschein), Housing Developments: Pet Permissibility, that would require housing developments financed through California's Zenovich-Moscone-Chacon Housing and Home Finance Act to allow a resident to own household animals as part of their tenancy. The West Hollywood City Council unanimously adopted Resolution #17-4946 in support of AB 1137. The resolution is attached. AB 1137 is on your desk awaiting consideration.

There is no state law addressing household animals in the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) financed housing. AB 1137 will make state financed housing household animal friendly. It is clear that the high cost of rental housing has had a growing impact on families with pets and a lack of pet-friendly housing options has put some pet owners in a position of choosing between keeping their household pet or keeping their housing. In the Los Angeles area alone, the Association for the Society for the Protection of Animals (ASPCA) recently found that 30,000 dogs and cats are in shelters because their families surrendered them due to problems with housing. A change in this state policy regarding pets will promote happier and healthier families and reduce the financial burden to shelters and the public.

The City of West Hollywood has a commitment to the protection of animals and a long history of supporting measures that promote animal welfare. The City is often recognized as one of the most animal-friendly cities in the nation. In 2002, the City amended its municipal code to refer to household animals (e.g. 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, with several other California cities following suit in 2009. Most recently, the City implemented an education campaign that provides placement of permanent signage to remind the community of the dangers of leaving their companion animals unattended in a parked car during warmer weather.

The City of West Hollywood urges you to sign AB 1137.

Respectfully,

John Heilman
MAYOR

Cc: Hon Brian Maienschein, AD 77
Hon Benjamin Allen, SD 26
Hon Richard Bloom, AD 50



RESOLUTION NO. 17-4946

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IN SUPPORT OF AB
1137 (MAIENSCHIN), HOUSING
DEVELOPMENTS: PET PERMISSIBILITY

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

WHEREAS, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Safety Net program recently found that over 30,000 dogs and cats are in Los Angeles shelters because their families surrendered them due to problems with housing; and

WHEREAS, developers of affordable housing generally strive to address multiple aspects of a household's quality of life and pets provide social and health benefits to families and individuals of all ages; and

WHEREAS, AB 1137, introduced by Assembly Member Brian Maienschein (D-San Diego), requires housing developments financed through the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to authorize a resident of a housing development to own one or more common household pets; and

WHEREAS, existing state law requires reasonable accommodations for disabled persons, allowing individuals to have support animals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to federal law, any public housing development financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is required to be pet-friendly; and

WHEREAS, AB 1137 aims to promote happier and healthier families and reduce the financial burden to shelters and the public by extending this pet-friendly policy to all residents in HCD-financed buildings, regardless of disability status; 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 1137, to allow common household pets in all HCD-funded affordable housing buildings.

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