

JOHN LEE

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12



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WEST VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER TO REOPEN AS A CITY-OPERATED SHELTER, ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF ANIMAL-RELATED SERVICES FOR THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

CHATSWORTH – Following months of speculation around a proposed plan to convert the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services’ (DAS) West Valley Center into a Community Resource Center, and tentative plans to reopen it, Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee announced today that the animal shelter reopening is finally confirmed.

“Since last summer, I have fought to get the West Valley Center reopened as a City-operated animal shelter and I’m very glad to let our residents know that we succeeded,” said Councilmember Lee who represents the northwest San Fernando Valley, and in whose district the shelter is located. “Without this facility, the entire San Fernando Valley would only have one City-operated animal shelter and neither I nor the Valley’s millions of taxpaying residents were okay with that outcome.”

The West Valley and North Central animal shelters were temporarily closed last April in order for DAS to respond to a reduction in staff and resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The department shared a proposal in June to transform the West Valley facility into a center to be jointly operated by a nonprofit rescue organization. The new proposed Community Resource Center would only provide adoption and limited services to residents, and would no longer serve as a facility that residents could contact for intake, surrender, or other animal issues.

Since last summer, Councilmember Lee met with and spoke to numerous Valley residents and animal shelter volunteers who shared their opposition to the DAS proposal. On February 18, 2021, the department shared in [a memo](#), tentative plans to reopen all temporarily closed facilities as regular animal shelters. However, a few unresolved issues kept the reopening uncertain still.

“I will always strive to put the people and priorities of the Twelfth District first and make sure that the residents of CD12 and the San Fernando Valley have a voice at City Hall,” remarked Lee. “I’m grateful for the many residents who stepped up to join my fight to reopen this facility for our community, and I’m also grateful to Mayor Garcetti for his support of our efforts which helped to ensure this result.”

“COVID-19 has upended our lives and our sense of normalcy, and it has reinforced the necessity of facing unprecedented challenges with creativity, compassion, and resolve,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “Reopening this shelter will help save the lives of countless animals in the West Valley and ensure that they each have a home where they are loved, cared for, and valued.”

The West Valley Animal Services Center located at 20655 Plummer Street in Chatsworth will reopen on March 15th to once again serve the people and animals of the San Fernando Valley.

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Los Angeles City Councilmember John Lee represents the Twelfth Council District in the Northwest San Fernando Valley which includes the communities of Northridge, Chatsworth, Granada Hills, North Hills, West Hills, Porter Ranch, Sherwood Forest, and portions of Reseda.