

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Austin Animal Center is the largest municipal animal shelter in Central Texas, providing shelter to 23,000 animals annually and services to Austin/Travis County; and

WHEREAS, in March, 2010, Austin City Council adopted a No-Kill Plan for its animal services department that was developed to reduce animal intake and increase live animal outcomes; and

WHEREAS, with this policy decision, the City of Austin significantly changed its “business model” concerning disposition of unclaimed stray animals that, by ordinance, become city property if unclaimed on the fourth business day after intake; and

WHEREAS, most information contained in municipal shelter records is public, including the name, address, phone number and other identifying information of citizens who adopt a cat or dog from the local municipal shelter; and

WHEREAS, the public availability of this information has led to instances of conflict and harassment; and

WHEREAS, keeping the personal contact information of a person or rescue group confidential after the final disposition of a shelter animal will serve to protect individuals and organizations from harassment, threatening behavior,

unwanted contact and retaliation from a person attempting to reclaim his or her pet after the pet becomes the legal property of the shelter and has already been placed in an adoptive home or with a rescue group; and

WHEREAS, the 83rd Legislative Session is currently underway; and

WHEREAS, there is potential for legislation that could make personal contact information obtained from transactions at animal shelters confidential; and

WHEREAS, there is potential for other legislation that would positively affect the mission, operations, and procedures at the Austin Animal Center;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City of Austin's Legislative Program for the 83rd Legislature is hereby amended to support legislation that positively affects the mission of municipal animal shelters, shelter animal health, and shelter veterinary medicine.

ADOPTED: _____, 2013 **ATTEST:** _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk