



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Tawny Hammond, Chief Animal Services Officer

DATE: July 14, 2015

SUBJECT: New Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer

I'm pleased to announce the selection of Kristen Auerbach as the new Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer for the City. She will begin her duties in August.

She has extensive experience in animal welfare, public recreation and social services. She is currently the interim director for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and previously served as the assistant director and director of communications while I was there.

In addition to overseeing operations and managing staff at the Fairfax shelter she has created and implemented numerous, nationally-recognized programs. One such program, Power Hour, uses volunteers to take animals on outings for an hour or more away from the shelter.

She also led the efforts to have daily [play groups](#) for shelter dogs and has been an outspoken advocate about the benefits of play groups and other pet enrichment in a shelter environment.

The City interviewed four candidates for the position. The interview process consisted of an interview panel with members of the Austin animal welfare community as well as City staff.

Auerbach replaces Chris Noble in the Deputy position. Noble left in June to become the Chief of Police in Sealy, Texas.

I've attached Kristen's bio for your review.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

xc: Marc Ott, City Manager

Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager



Bio for Kristen Auerbach the new Deputy Chief Animal Services Officer

Kristen has been the director of communications and outreach since 2013 and more recently the interim director at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Along with Tawny Hammond, Kristen led the changes that resulted in Fairfax County becoming the largest jurisdiction in the United States with a live release rate above

90%.

She implemented the shelter's innovative foster program which has received national recognition and she started the transfer-in program, which focuses on pulling medium and large dogs from overcrowded shelters and jurisdictions with bans against pit bull dogs. Since Kristen arrived, shelter programs have been featured in numerous national publications and on television networks including the Huffington Post, BarkPost, Animal Sheltering Magazine, CNN, Buzzfeed and the Examiner. Kristen presents at regional and national conferences on topics ranging from lifesaving social media to ending breed labeling to increasing live release rates of medium and large dogs.

Prior to coming to the FairFax animal shelter, Kristen taught courses in writing and cultural studies at the Ohio State University and owned and operating an equestrian program business. Kristen has a bachelors and master's degree from The Ohio State University, in Columbus, Ohio.