Thursday, March 11, 2010

Health and Human Services RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 21

Subject: Approve a resolution adopting the Recommendations for the Implementation Plan to Reduce Animal Intake and Increase Live Animal Outcomes, and authorizing the City Manager to initiate implementation.

For More Information: David Lurie, Director, 972-5010; Dorinda Pulliam, Asst. Director for Animal Services, 972-6088; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

Prior Council Action: Council directive to develop an Implementation Plan to Reduce Animal Intake and Increase Live Animal Outcomes, November 5, 2009.

The Animal Advisory Commission (AAC) sent proposed recommendations to Council in July of 2009 to reduce animal intake and increase live outcomes at the Austin Town Lake Animal Center (TLAC) in response to Council Resolution No. 20090115-059.

Resolution No. 20091105-040 directed staff to work on an implementation plan with the AAC and other related partners for presentation to Council by March 1, 2010.

The Public Health and Human Services Committee accepted the staff's presentation of a recommended plan at their meeting on March 1, 2010, and directed the modifications presented by the AAC be incorporated into the plan.

A special meeting of the Public Health and Human Services Committee was held on March 4, 2010, with direction for the following to be included in the plan: (1) proceed to develop a mission statement that incorporates the revised mission statement for animal services in the AAC recommendation, and including the 90 percent live outcome goal, into a broader mission that reflects the full scope of responsibilities associated with municipal animal services; (2) plans for the Davenport Building remain as previously prescribed by Council but recommend that the current TLAC site be maintained for a period of six months after the new Animal Services Center is opened on Levander Loop, at which time staff will come back to Council with recommendation for any future use of the site; (3) proceed with the plan to outsource the comprehensive adoption program at TLAC; and (4) adopt the AAC recommendation to Council and impose an immediate moratorium on killing any animal (except for humane reasons or aggression validated by a behaviorist) when there are cages or kennels available.