



OFFICE OF TRAVIS COUNTY JUDGE SARAH ECKHARDT

Mayor Steve Adler
City of Austin
301 West 2nd Street
Austin, TX 78701

Hand Delivered 5/29/15

RE: Animal Advisory Commission appointment for Travis County

Dear Mayor Adler,

The Travis County Commissioners Court currently has representation on the City of Austin Animal Advisory Commission. City Ordinance, 2-1-102, describes the membership of the Commission, and does not specify a seat for Travis County, but merely allows that the "Council shall appoint among the commissioners at least..., (5) one person recommended by the Travis County Commissioners Court." Former Council member Laura Morrison routinely appointed the Travis County-selected appointee to serve on the Commission.

The City and County collaboratively provide animal control services throughout Travis County and the City of Austin. Services purchased include Animal Control (including Rabies and Dispatch response and support for public safety officials and for public health); Prevention; Shelter Services; and Spay/Neuter Clinics. The FY 2015 Interlocal Agreement is approved by both entities at \$1,494,263.

Travis County requests a modification to City Ordinance 2-1-102, to allow for a designated seat on the Animal Advisory Commission. This seat should be designated for a representative selected by and representing the interests of the Travis County Commissioners Court. Currently the board has seven members; the 10-1 transition will result in additional city appointees and appears to be an appropriate time to designate a seat(s) for Travis County. Since this addition would create an even number of Commissioners, Travis County suggests a second seat, which may be designated for the Travis County Commissioners Court selection of a representative of a small municipality, village or township within Travis County.

Our staffs have had dialogue in the past with other governmental entities within Travis County regarding Animal Services issues affecting both the City of Austin and Travis County. Staff is planning forward with our government partners for continuing conversations around Animal Services issues. We know our population growth will only continue and will contribute exponentially to the resource needs to manage our pet populations.

I look forward to your support of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SE", is written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Eckhardt