



Agenda Item No.: 38.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 20, 2011

DEPARTMENT: DETENTION AND ENFORCEMENT
DIRECTOR: KAREN CONNE

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:
ADMINISTRATIVE:

Report to satisfy annual requirement under Ordinance 6067 regarding spaying/neutering of certain animals.

Fiscal Impact

☐ No Impact ☐ Augmentation Required
☐ Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

Ordinance No. 6067, adopted in 2009 and amended by Ordinance No. 6094, was adopted to generally require the spaying or neutering of certain animals. Section 10 (A) of Ordinance No. 6067 requires an annual review by City Council of the effect and implementation of the spay/neuter requirements. The referenced annual report accompanies this item in satisfaction of said provision.

RECOMMENDATION:

Report only, no action required

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Spay and Neuter Annual Update Report 2011

Minutes:

TIM SHATTLER, Detention and Enforcement, summarized the ordinance and situational history, then deferred to the community stakeholders present. After the City worked with community partners and adopted this ordinance in 2009, other entities in the Valley followed suit, in order to reach the shared goals. He explained the efforts taken to educate the public and get the word out about this program. He mentioned the more important ordinance exceptions; the dog/cat fanciers, breeders and professional animal handlers. Since the enforcement of the ordinance, approximately eight percent of all the citations issued relating to animals involves this ordinance. Although there are complaints and opposition, the need for this ordinance is generally accepted.

CHRISTINE ROBERTS, Director of the Animal Shelter, read the Animal Foundation's mission statement. Unlike many social problems, this one is fixable and the mandatory spay and neuter ordinance is a tool for doing so. This ordinance does not make the problem worse, although there is not sufficient data to demonstrate the improvement she believes exists. She cited various statistics demonstrating her feeling. She stressed that the job is getting done because of the educational efforts being made. She listed a number of other partners within the community and where this community is going as a result. She invited

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everyone to the Best in Show event on May 1st, at the Orleans Arena, at 1:00 p.m. Lastly, the public spay and neuter clinic is open for business and additional information can be found on the www.animalfoundation.com website.

DAVE HENDERSON, Medical Director, Heaven Can Wait, described his history and how this ordinance has allowed those creating the problem to be targeted.

COUNCILMAN REESE noted that his support of this ordinance has been a result of the mentoring and advice of DR. HENDERSON.

HAROLD VASCO, President, Heaven Can Wait, concurred that this is good, but there is a long way to go. The last line of their public ads is "after all, it's the law."

KAREN LAYNE, President, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society, summarized the efforts of her organization for low-cost spay and neutering. Their goal is to make a difference. COUNCILMAN REESE encouraged everyone to work on the feral cats issue. MS. LAYNE explained to COUNCILMAN REESE that there are ferals in Councilman's ward, and she offered to investigate should he have additional locations. Efforts are being made to work with the County on making changes to the feral cat ordinance that will have a bigger impact on this issue.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY recalled that this was a very controversial issue when the bill was first introduced. He asked what has been the outcome regarding the four-month versus six-month standard for spay and neutering. DR. HENDERSON answered that it has been proven there is no medical difference between four and six months. The six-month standard was set 50 years ago and was arbitrary. In this instance, there has been no discussion since the adoption of the ordinance that he is aware of.

Regarding the exceptions, DR. HENDERSON indicated he has advised approximately 35 clients to visit their veterinarian to obtain a written medical exception from this ordinance. MS. ROBERTS stressed that it is an infrequent situation and City staff follows up accordingly. MR. SHATTLER clarified that there are a number of type of exceptions that have been granted. As for the concern regarding citations, the 56 citations have usually involved repeat offenders.

COUNCILMAN BARLOW thanked COUNCILMAN REESE for bringing the feral cats issue to the forefront because he has been dealing with a similar issue. A resident informed him that there are a number of cats having babies in his neighborhood and questioned how to address this. MR. SHATTLER replied that a group will be assembled and will review the ordinance to address this issue. The Councilman also acknowledged COUNCILMAN ROSS for bringing this item forward and giving elected officials an opportunity to participate in these discussions. COUNCILMAN ROSS thanked everyone for taking an active part in this issue and making better communities.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN remarked that the County provides their residents with boxes to catch feral cats and wondered if the City could do the same. MR. SHATTLER informed the Councilwoman that staff can provide them on a more regular basis.