



*Las Vegas*

Agenda Item No.: 5.

**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE**  
**RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

DEPARTMENT: CITY ATTORNEY  
DIRECTOR: BRADFORD R. JEBBIC

Consent  Discussion

**SUBJECT:**

Bill No. 2012-7 - For Possible Adoption - Revises the requirements regarding the release of feral cats, authorizing their release to qualifying feral cat colonies. Sponsored by: Councilwoman Lois Tarkenton

**Fiscal Impact**

- No Impact  Augmentation Required
- Budget Funds Available

**Amount:**  
**Funding Source:**  
**Dept./Division:**

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:**

This bill will revise the City's requirements regarding the release of feral cats, authorizing their release to qualifying feral cat colonies. The bill will in large part enact what Clark County has in place. The intent is to be able to use the County's approach to the treatment of the feral cat problem, whether pursuant to a cooperative agreement with the County or by having the City manage a parallel program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This bill should be submitted to a Recommending Committee for review, hearing and recommendation to the City Council for final action.

**BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Bill No. 2012-7
2. Business Impact Statement
3. Submitted at Meeting Proposed Amendments by Jana Wright and First Amendment by Val Steed

Motion made by BOB COFFIN to Approve as Do Pass as Second Amendment

Passed For: 2; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0  
STAVROS S. ANTHONY, BOB COFFIN; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

**Minutes:**

By way of reading the item, COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing open.

DEPUTY CHIEF TIM SHATTLER, Detention and Enforcement, explained the purpose of this item is to bring the City in line with the County. In response to COUNCILMAN ANTHONY, he provided a brief overview of the requirements pertaining to the release of feral cats. MR. SHATTLER was unable to provide COUNCILMAN COFFIN with statistics pertaining to the feral cat population in comparison to stray dogs.

## RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: FEBRUARY 14, 2012

JANA WRIGHT, Las Vegas resident, appeared in support of the ordinance and outlined her suggested amendments as submitted for the record. DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER deferred to DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY VAL STEED who discussed the changes made in the first amendment. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED and DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER agreed to MS. WRIGHT'S suggestions.

KAREN LANE, Las Vegas Valley Humane Society, thanked the Committee Members for bringing this forward. She concurred with MS. WRIGHT'S suggestions and received clarification from DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER that the City is trying to align with the County. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED confirmed that the bill's language was taken from the County's ordinance. DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER stated she wants to make sure they have access to these files.

KEITH WILLIAMS, Central Sponsor for the feral cat colonies, addressed the issue of colony size, briefly explained how colonies operate and provided some existing statistics on feral colonies. He explained that limiting the colony size is not nearly as practical as it sounds. DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER provided an explanation for the inclusion of limited colony sizes and confirmed for COUNCILMAN ANTHONY that the County ordinance is unlimited. MR. WILLIAMS went on to suggest that he be allowed to access the number of cats between enforcers and colony caretakers, but was unable to provide COUNCILMAN ANTHONY with the average number of cats per colony.

COUNCILMAN COFFIN stated that including a limit may be difficult to enforce. DEPUTY CITY MANAGER ORLANDO SANCHEZ stated there are limits established by other ordinances concerning animals, including one that limits how many pets can be kept in a home. COUNCILMAN ANTHONY had MS. LANE provide some additional insight on the actual practices surrounding colony size. She is not in favor of limiting colony size because it creates barriers to the ultimate goal of spaying and neutering every cat in the colony. DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER stated that removing the limit will encourage people to have large colonies. MS. LANE suggested creating a pilot program without a limit to colony size and reviewing the program in one year to establish any problems that have arisen.

COUNCILMAN COFFIN did not agree with including a limit to colony size and moved to strike the limit.

DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED received clarification pertaining to moving the notifications and locations from the Animal Regulation Officer to the Central Sponsor. DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER confirmed he was agreeable to that amendment provided the City retains access to the records. DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY STEED stated he would add that provision so DEPUTY CHIEF SHATTLER would have access.

By way of reading the next item, COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing closed.