



Recommending Committee Minutes

1. Call to Order

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS KNUDSEN, DIAZ and ALLEN-PALENSKE

ALSO PRESENT: SETH FLOYD, Community Development Executive Director; PETER LOWENSTEIN, Deputy Community Development Director; CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK; ASSISTANT DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACQUIE MILLER; and DEPUTY CITY CLERK NICK CRAWFORD

2. Announcement Regarding: Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Minutes:

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE: This meeting has been properly noticed and posted at the following locations in accordance with the noticing standards as outlined in NRS 241.020: Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor; City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor; the City of Las Vegas website - www.lasvegasnevada.gov; and the Nevada Public Notice website - notice.nv.gov.

3. Public Comment: Comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters on the agenda for action. If you wish to be heard, come forward and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:

None.

4. For possible action to approve the Final Minutes by reference of the September 2, 2025 Recommending Committee Meeting

Motion made by Francis Allen-Palenske to Approve

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Olivia Diaz, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske;

5. Bill No. 2025-35 - For possible action - Amends various provisions of LVMC Title 7 related to the regulation of pet shops, establishes and revises penalties for certain violations of LVMC Title 7, and prohibits newly licensed pet shops from selling dogs, cats, rabbits, potbellied pigs, or guinea pigs. Sponsored by: Mayor Shelley Berkley and Councilwoman Nancy E. Brune

Minutes:

CITY ATTORNEY JEFF DOROCAK utilized a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which was submitted for the record, to cover the history of Bill No. 2025-35 and a proposed First Amendment, a copy of which was also submitted for the record. He stated that Bill No. 2025-13 was a regulatory bill addressing requirements for canine enclosures, quarantine rooms, and warranty requirements, sponsored by former Councilwoman VICTORIA SEAMAN. Bill No. 2025-14 dealt with a prohibition on the sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, and pot-bellied pigs by newly licensed shops opening in the City of Las Vegas, sponsored by MAYOR SHELLEY BERKLEY and COUNCILWOMAN NANCY BRUNE. MR. DOROCAK reported that both bills were stricken, and three Councilmembers implemented aspects from both bills to develop Bill No. 2025-35. He explained that the

exemption for existing pet shop sales would expire two years from the bill's adoption. In accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes, the bill went out for business impact solicitation and written and verbal feedback was received by the bill's sponsors and Animal Protection Services. He explained that the bill was first introduced in September without a sunset provision, which would have allowed grandfathered shops to continue selling animals if they remained at their current location or relocated to another location without expanding. After additional feedback throughout September and October, the City Attorney's Office drafted a proposed First Amendment, which would allow the 13 existing grandfathered shops to sell the five categories of animals listed in the bill for three years from bill's adoption date, setting the sunset date on November 5, 2028. MR. DOROCAK reviewed the highlights of regulations from Bill No. 2025-13 that were incorporated into Bill No. 2025-35, including enclosures, warranty requirements, pricing and breed display requirements, health certificates, human and animal separation requirements, and the requirement for a written disease control plan. He added that a provision was included, taken from Bill No. 2025-14, stating that pet shops with three adjudications or code-related issues by Animal Protection Services would be brought before the City Council for possible revocation. Additionally, pet shops were allowed to partner with shelters and non-profit organizations but would be prohibited from profiting in these instances. A minimum fine of \$250 and a maximum fine of \$500 were established for individuals illegally selling animals described in the bill.

COUNCILMAN KNUDSEN explained that the intention of the Recommending Committee was to move Bill No. 2025-35 to the November 5, 2025, City Council meeting. He stated that the presentation would be given again and encouraged those who wished to speak on the bill to do so at the City Council meeting before the bill's sponsors.

REBECCA GOFF, Nevada State Director, Humane World for Animals (formerly known as the Humane Society of the United States), thanked the City for all the work put into creating the bill. She expressed that the addition of the sunset provision in the First Amendment was a step in the right direction. She shared that the City of Las Vegas has 13 pet shop stores, which is more than the number of pet shops in 37 other states. MS. GOFF urged the Committee and City Council to support the bill and expressed her desire for the City of Las Vegas to join the 500 municipalities and eight states that have banned the sale of dogs, cats, and other animals.

ANNOULA WYLDERICH appreciated the First Amendment made to the bill and stated that it was important for ordinances to be consistent with contiguous jurisdictions for them to be effective. She acknowledged that large-scale breeding operations resorted to direct-to-consumer sales. She shared that there were efforts at the federal level to close those loopholes in the Animal Welfare Act.

ALYSSA MILLER-HURLEY, Pet Advocacy Network, recognized that everyone wanted to protect animals and preserve their welfare, but she did not believe that ordinances like Bill No. 2025-35 achieved their intended goals. She reported that the retail sale ban of commercially bred dogs, cats, and rabbits in California had an unintended effect of creating a black market for the sale of puppies. She shared that an L.A. Times (Los Angeles Times) article detailed the cruelty that animals faced through illegal backyard breeding and transportation, which were not regulated by the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). MS. MILLER-HURLEY believed that people's desire to choose a specific breed of animal would not disappear if there were no pet stores, and she felt that the City should not make it harder to access an animal from a reputable breeder who takes care of their animals. She stated that most individuals do not know what to look for in a reputable breeder, noting that states have thresholds for breeders to be regulated. She believed regulations should be strengthened to ensure that pet stores in the City only worked with top-tier breeders and preserved businesses within the City. MS. MILLER-HURLEY offered that the Pet Advocacy Network would be happy to work with the City to identify ways to strengthen enforcement. She reported that five states had rejected pet sale bans in favor of strengthening regulations within the past year. She added that Humane World for Animals had been supportive of similar bans for over 10 years, but she shared that the number of puppy mills had not decreased. MS. MILLER-HURLEY referred to the statistics shared by MS. GOFF stating that 500 municipalities had banned the sale of dogs, cats, and other animals, arguing that this proves such legislation would not resolve the animal crisis in the City of Las Vegas.

WARREN HARDY, Humane World for Animals, shared that he had spent years trying to identify a solution for a ban but had not found a way to effectively address the issue. He respectfully disagreed with MS. MILLER-HURLEY'S statements, noting that this was about inhumane practices and consumer protection.

HILARIE GREY, The Animal Foundation, thanked the City Council for revisiting the issue of puppy mill pet stores within the City of Las Vegas and supporting the proposed statewide ban during the 2025 Session of the

Nevada Legislature. She expressed appreciation that health and safety concerns were further regulated and that efforts were being made to stop additional stores from proliferating in the valley with the sunset clause. She acknowledged that this alone would not stop the problem and understood the need to provide notice to existing shops to allow them to change their business model. She stated that pet supplies and services were a thriving business sector and believed that existing businesses that care about animal welfare could adapt successfully. MS. GREY added that existing businesses have many potential partnerships with shelters and rescues for adoptions. She shared that nearly 800 animals were located at The Animal Foundation campus, with every breed, size, and age of animal available for adoption. She felt that there was no need for retail sales to continue since people could find their breed of choice at adoption centers, noting that there are many breed-specific rescues and legitimate breeders that do not sell to pet stores or breed on a large scale. MS. GREY praised the City of Las Vegas for being a leader on this issue and requested that the Committee recommend Bill No. 2025-35 with the sunset clause for existing pet stores. She concluded that The Animal Foundation was happy to partner with businesses prioritizing animal welfare to transition successfully.

LINDSAY AIMAR supported the full ban on the sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores. She indicated that animal shelters were overcrowded, with cats and dogs available for adoption at local shelters and rescues. She felt that out-of-state breeding operations were inhumane and shared that there were responsible, ethical breeders for individuals seeking specific breeds of animals. She believed that Bill No. 2025-35 was not anti-business but rather supported the community, animals, and responsibility. She urged the City Council to support the bill.

BRIDGET MURPHY read a statement on behalf of the Las Vegas Valley Humane Society, which stated that Bill No. 2025-35 fell short since it includes broad exceptions for existing pet shops, allowing the pipeline of animals from puppy mills to continue in the City for the next three years. The statement asserted that if the City wanted to be a leader in animal welfare, it should not grandfather businesses that profit from the suffering of animals. Further, the City should impose a complete ban on the retail sale of animals and direct support to reputable shelters and rescues. The statement concluded that the proposed sunset clause would prolong the problem and prioritize profit over humane treatment.

RACHEL BERGREN, Executive Director, Heaven Can Wait Animal Society, supported the passing of Bill No. 2025-35 with the First Amendment. She shared that her clinic did not have the resources to support the large number of spay and neuter, vaccination, and microchipping services. She stated that animals sold in pet shops are often sold before they are old enough to be vaccinated, spayed or neutered, or microchipped, which places additional pressure on local clinics and shelters.

Motion made by Brian Knudsen to Approve to forward to the City Council with no recommendation as a First Amendment

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Olivia Diaz, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske;

6. Citizens Participation: Public comment during this portion of the agenda must be limited to matters within the jurisdiction of the Recommending Committee. No subject may be acted upon by the Recommending Committee unless that subject is on the agenda and is scheduled for action. If you wish to be heard, come to the podium and give your name for the record. The amount of discussion on any single subject, as well as the amount of time any single speaker is allowed, may be limited.

Minutes:
None.

7. Adjournment

Minutes:
The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Nick Crawford, Deputy City Clerk

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN NRS 241.020:

The City of Las Vegas website – www.lasvegasnevada.gov

The Nevada Public Notice website – notice.nv.gov

Civic Center Building A, 525 South Main Street, 1st Floor

City Hall, 495 South Main Street, 1st Floor