
CITY OF TEMPE
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**REVISED****Council Meeting Date: 02/11/2016**
Agenda Item: 6C4

ACTION: Hold the second and final public hearing to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the Tempe City Code, relating to Animals, in general, by adding a new Article III, prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats by commercial pet shops or pet dealers unless that dog or cat was obtained from an animal shelter, nonprofit humane society, or nonprofit animal rescue organization. (Ordinance No. O2016.12)

FISCAL IMPACT: Violation of this ordinance would result in a penalty of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) per occurrence.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Ordinance No. O2016.12.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On August 6, 2015, the Mayor and Council approved the request to create a City Manager's Working Group exploring the animal health and welfare concerns as well as the consumer protection implications of commercial pet sales.

The working group met with the owner of a local commercial pet seller, representatives from other pet supply retailers, local veterinarians, pet store customers, and representatives from rescue and nonprofit animal advocacy organizations. Additionally, staff researched multiple aspects of commercial pet sales including USDA animal care standards and national best practices in pet breeding standards. Tempe's local pet seller provided a packet of information on his business practices, including a list of his breeders, which were also considered and supplemented with additional research. The results of that research are included in a supplementary document for the record, submitted alongside this memo.

Based on data collected and input from stakeholders, the working group agreed upon the following:

- The sole commercial pet seller in Tempe currently obtains the animals for sale primarily or exclusively from large-scale commercial breeding facilities commonly referred to as "puppy mills." The Tempe commercial seller asserts that he does not purchase dogs from inhumane breeders.
- The council working group has reviewed data and determined that USDA standards which govern these facilities appear to be substandard and inadequately enforced, and that commercial breeders do not meet commonly recognized national best practices for breeding standards.
- The animals bred at these facilities are statistically more likely to have serious health and behavioral problems which can lead to increased risk to consumers of physical and emotional harm, as well as significant financial expense.

Supplemental documents have been added to address questions raised by Councilmembers during the January 21, 2016 Work Study Session.

ATTACHMENTS: Ordinance, Supplemental materials, and public input

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