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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2011

TO: John Szerlag, City Manager

FROM: Gary G. Mayer, Chief of Police
Chuck Pappas, Lieutenant, Troy Police Department

RE: Discontinued Services – Animal Control Services

BACKGROUND: In response to the current budget challenges as articulated in Option I and the commensurate reductions in Police Department staffing, Animal Control was a service identified for elimination in the future. At one time we had three full time Animal Control Officers (ACO). For efficiency we had transitioned the ACO position into a blended Animal Control/Police Service Aide position that offered more multipurpose use of personnel. Due to employee attrition and budget constraints not allowing personnel replacement we had reduced the level of service on March 25, 2010. Our on-going staff reductions in conjunction with the Oakland County Animal Control Division obtaining funding to expand its Animal Control service make it timely to take advantage of this program now and transfer all of the remaining Animal Control services we currently provide to Oakland County.

ANALYSIS: With a current countywide field staff of six full time and three part time Animal Control Deputized Officers and a shelter staff, Oakland County will provide services for the City of Troy. The Oakland County Animal Control Officers will be responding to routine calls and performing mandated animal control services between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The County is indicating that emergency calls that put the public at risk involving animals will be responded to after hours by an on-call Animal Control Officer.

The Oakland County Animal Control Division will assign one full time officer and one part time officer per 175,000 population. Based upon this data they will assign one full time officer and one part time officer from South Boulevard to Eight Mile Road and between Dequindre to Adams.

The Troy Police Department has traditionally provided a very high level of Animal Control services. Although the transition to the County represents an opportunity to address staffing and budget challenges, this transition will result in a noticeable reduction in service over the past. It is a transition, and as such we will work with the County and Troy residents to ensure it is managed well.

Below is a list of services provided by the Oakland County Animal Control Division:

Oakland County Animal Control Services will respond to the following:

- Respond and investigate animal bites on any animal that may carry rabies.
- Respond 24/7 to calls that put the public at risk involving animals.
- Sell, process, and record licensing of dogs.
- Impoundment, care for, and attempt to reunite stray dogs.
- Annual dog census.
- Investigations of reported animal cruelty.
- Support and administration for shelter operations and enforcement.
- Enforce the Dangerous Dog Act, including any vicious animals.
- Investigate and enforce multiple animal control law violations to include: wolf/dog breeding, ban on large carnivores, dog fighting, and suspected rabies cases.
- Sick and injured animals with potential of rabies causing hazard to the public.
- Any wild animal in residence living area, and public hazard to the community.
- Animals running at large, other than cats.
- Found animals, other than cats that must be dropped off at the county facility.
- Welfare checks on animals left in vehicles. (cruelty)
- Respond to assist police where animals are involved. (arrest, drug raids)

Oakland County Animal Control Services will not respond to the following:

- Pick up stray and or nuisance cats, provide cat impoundment, or return to owner.
- Noise/barking dog complaints.
- Number of dogs allowed in residence.
- Disturbance of birds and bird nest.
- Permits for domestic livestock or dangerous animals.
- Coyote complaints (DNR matter)
- Geese problems (DNR matter)
- Pick up injured wildlife and transport to wildlife or sanctuary.
- Annually inspect kennel facilities, unless claim of cruelty.
- Pet shop inspections, unless cruelty.
- Tethering, unless claim of cruelty.
- Feeding waterfowl.
- Hunting and trapping of animal violations, unless cruelty.
- Delivery of rabies specimens to Lansing for testing.
- Provide shelter quarantine of attack animals.
- Euthanasia of sick and ill-tempered animals for residents.
- All animal give-ups must be taken to the county facility. (cost incurred to resident)

Action Items:

The Police Department will implement a public education effort to notify citizens of this change through the media, the Police Department and City websites, as well as through Facebook and our Weekly Crime Alerts. When fully implemented, citizens that contact our Dispatch Center with animal control issues will be directed to Oakland County Animal Control Services.

City Administration will present action items at subsequent council meetings Including:
Ordinance amendments.
Interlocal agreement with Oakland County.
Revision and amendment of our current contract with the City of Clawson.

Conclusion: As a result of reduced staffing because of budget cuts, we will transition the personnel that previously supplied this service into other vacant positions of similar job classification. The animal control equipment and vehicles will be sold as soon as practical following city policy. Funds required for personnel costs, vehicles, equipment, and animal care center services & disposal in the remaining fiscal year will not be used and have been eliminated from future budgets. As soon as the details are completed, the Oakland County Animal Control Division will provide for animal control services, including dog licensing, for the City of Troy.