



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: AUGUST 20, 2019

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER GARDNER  
COUNCILMEMBER PERRY WARD(S): ALL

SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF A FERAL CAT  
TRAP NEUTER AND RETURN (TNR) PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE

## **ISSUE:**

The City of Riverside contracts with Riverside County Department of Animal Services (DAS) to provide animal control services in the City. DAS currently live releases about 90% of the dogs it impounds, but in the western part of the county it euthanizes about 60% of the cats that are impounded. Most of these are feral or community cats.

DAS has a partnership with Best Friends Animal Society, a non-profit organization to trap, neuter and return feral cats in the Coachella Valley. This program is about 3 years old and has reduced the number of cats euthanized in the area by 36%. Best Friends operates the program at no cost to DAS. In fact, the program saves DAS money by reducing the intake of cats, reducing euthanization and the attendant disposal of dead animals.

Best Friends and DAS are interested in expanding the program to the western part of the county including the City of Riverside. If this is done, fewer feral cats will live in the area because the birthrate will decrease significantly, and over time the total population of feral cats will diminish.

The program provides services to trap and spay or neuter feral or community cats. When possible nursing mothers and kittens are placed in foster care until the kittens are weaned. The mother is then spayed. The kittens are kept in foster care until they are old enough to fend for themselves. Spayed and neutered cats are returned to the area they were trapped where they live out their lives. In instances where a neighbor does not want the cats on their property Best Friends provides deterrent measures such as motion sensing sprinklers at no cost to the property owner.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council adopt a resolution supporting implementation of the Best Friends Trap Neuter and Return program in the City of Riverside.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City of Riverside in adopting the resolution or implementing the program.

Prepared by: Councilmember Mike Gardner  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Prepared by:



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MIKE GARDNER  
Councilmember, Ward 1

Prepared by:



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JIM PERRY  
Councilmember, Ward 6

Attachments:

1. Riverside County Cat Program
2. Resolution