

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: December 2, 2014

TITLE: (Continued Public Hearing)
Ordinance Adopting Riverside County's Latest Version of the County's Animal Control Regulations and Resolution Adopting Riverside County's Animal Control Fees for Certain Licenses, Permits and Services

Prepared by: Steven B. Quintanilla, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Introduce for First Reading an Ordinance of the City Council adopting Riverside County's latest version of the County's Animal Control Regulations; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution adopting Riverside County's Animal Control Fees for certain licenses, permits and services.

BACKGROUND

In 1993, the City of Desert Hot Springs ("City") formally adopted Riverside County's animal control regulations that were in effect in 1993. However, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors has amended Riverside County's animal control regulations several times in the past twenty years since 1993, which were not adopted by the City.

Twenty years later, in 2013, the City entered into an agreement ("contract") with Riverside County Department of Animal Control Services ("County") to provide various animal field and licensing services with a performance period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.

The services include the following:

- Responding to calls for field service assistance;
- Impounding at-large (stray/abandoned) animals and collecting impound fees;
- Providing care and treatment to stray and abandoned animals;
- Investigating reported animal bites;
- Quarantining all suspected any rabid animal that has bitten a person;
- Responding to stray and barking animal complaints;
- Picking up dead animals;
- Returning lost/stray animals to owners subject to payment of impound fees;
- Issuing dog licenses and collecting licensing fees;
- Inspecting and issuing licenses to operate dog kennels and catteries; and
- Issuing warnings and citations for violations of the County's animal control regulations.

Pursuant to the contract, the cost structure is dependent upon the City adoption the County's latest animal control regulations as set forth in Title VI of the Riverside County Code. Title 6 contains not only Riverside County's animal control regulations, but also its current fines and fees.

In light of the foregoing, it is recommended that the City Council adopt the ordinance that adopts Title 6 and adopt the attached Resolution which will adopt the County's current fees set forth in Title 6. Presumably, when these fees were set by the County, it was determined that the amounts reflect the reasonable costs incurred by the County in connection with the respective

services provided for said fees, which include but are not limited to processing various license and permit applications and performing certain regulatory activities associated with the care and treatment of various animals and the protection of public health and safety. Since the City currently contracts with the County to provide animal control services for the City pursuant to the County's animal control regulations, the amount of the fees as currently set by the County should equally reflect the costs incurred by the County on behalf of the City with respect to all the animal control services it provides for the City.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the contract for all of the above services is \$539,100, which is to be offset by \$100,000, through the collection of licensing fees during the two year period of the contract.

EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Proposed Ordinance
- 2) Exhibit A to Proposed Ordinance
- 3) Proposed Resolution