

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 22, 2016

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair),
Tiffinni A. Young (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Mark Clayton, Philip T. Kingston, B. Adam McGough

SUBJECT Animal Cruelty Task Force

In partnership with local animal advocates, a working group has been formed to improve the reporting, investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty cases in Dallas. Since December 2015, the City has responded to animal and other dumping concerns in the southeast area near Dowdy Ferry Road with press conferences led by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Erik Wilson, an educational campaign, direct outreach and services to residents in target areas and increased enforcement using surveillance cameras. These measures have led to two arrests for the dumping of dead animals.

Through these efforts, City staff began a dialogue with local animal advocates also working to stop the illegal dumping of animals. Those discussions have led to the formation of this working group to improve the entire process.

Each year, the City receives almost 4,000 calls of suspected animal cruelty or abuse cases, but we also encounter other potential crimes when responding to emergencies and calls for service. This working group will focus on improving the coordination, reporting and communication of services that respond to animal cruelty issues by reviewing existing processes and implementing necessary changes. By October 2016, the working group will present a report to the Animal Advisory Commission and Quality of Life & Environment Committee on actions implemented and other recommendations.

This is a great opportunity to strengthen collaboration throughout the organization and with our community. Please let me know if you have further questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council