

Date: September 22, 2022
To: Melissa R. Marsh, City Manager
From: Corey K. Haines, Chief of Police
Subject: Animal Shelter Operations

As part of the 2021, strategic planning goals, City Council adopted goal 1.3 to Enhance Animal Control and Shelter Operations which included looking at shared animal control services to enhance shelter operations. Following this past goal, staff regularly evaluates opportunities and has recently reviewed the pros and cons of partnering with Oakland County Animal Control for some of our animal control services. Earlier this month Oakland County released their fee schedule for non-partner communities and asked to again discuss partnering on these services. Therefore, I had a meeting with staff at the Oakland County Animal Shelter as well as multiple meetings with Animal Control Officer (ACO) Justin Holland. Per this memo, staff and I are recommending that the city partner with Oakland County Animal Control to supplement and enhance our city services.

Under this partnership, Oakland County will provide the City of Madison Heights with one (1) full-time Animal Control Officer that would patrol the city between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. In addition, Oakland County would be responsible for all costs associated with dogs picked up by the Oakland County ACO and transferred to Oakland County. Oakland County Animal Control does not respond to barking dogs, wildlife, chicken complaints, road kill or complaints involving cats (unless there is abuse or hoarding complaints.) Therefore, I am recommending that we maintain our full-time Animal Control Officer. These services would be provided at no cost to the City since taxpayers in Oakland County, including Madison Heights, subsidize the Oakland County Animal Shelter and Animal Control through Oakland County taxes and Oakland County would be responsible for collection of animal licenses and fess.

ACO Holland would remain a full-time Animal Control Officer in the City as there are plenty of complaints and investigations that will still need to be covered. ACO Holland would respond to any complaint of too many animals, barking dogs, wildlife complaints, road kill, chicken complaints, and any other complaints either not handled by Oakland County or to assist Oakland County.

Oakland County would handle the majority of domestic animal complaints during the day and would transport, at no cost to our City, all stray or found animals to the Oakland County Animal Shelter. The Oakland County Animal Shelter has a full adoption services program and would handle all adoptions of animals, which is preferred. Only extremely sick/severely injured/dying animals, animals deemed by the Court to be dangerous, or animals deemed by Oakland County Animal Control to be unadoptable would be euthanized. Oakland County's preferred method for

all animals is to be returned to their owners or to be adopted into their forever homes. For feral cats only, Oakland County has a Trap/Neuter/Replace policy. Oakland County would pay the costs to have feral cats trapped, neutered/spayed, and then replaced in the area where they are located. This satisfies multiple purposes. Over time the cats will no longer be able to have new litters of kittens, the cats that are released won't be replaced by other cats moving into their area as quickly, and the cats do have a positive effect on the rodent population.

The City of Madison Heights would continue with shelter operations, with staffing, to house cats when necessary and to house dogs that are picked up by our Police Officers after hours. Those dogs and cats would be turned over to Oakland County Animal Control during normal business hours for transport to the County Shelter.

Oakland County would handle dangerous dog situations by supplying the victims with instructions on how to file a dangerous dog case with the court. In severe situations, Oakland County would take control of the dog and transport to the shelter. The City would also have the option to begin a civil case against the owner of the alleged dangerous dog, as we continue to do at this time. The County only uses the court system with serious injuries to humans as they don't have the resources to prosecute animal on animal attacks. The City would continue to handle that but only in necessary situations.

The City would no longer sell dog licenses as residents would be required to obtain a Oakland County Dog licenses only. This service is available online and Oakland County would also conduct a survey throughout the city to determine potential dog owners and advise them on the necessity of licensing. This survey is required by State Law. Further, staff would recommend the discontinuing of issuing cat and/or chicken licenses as there are so few of these animals licensed in the city it has proven to be more work for the clerk's office than is necessary. For the last fiscal year, the city only issued licenses for twenty (20) hens and seven (7) cats. Therefore the \$965 annual cost of maintaining the software to issue these 27 licenses far outweighs the benefits.


Residents would be required to purchase their dog licenses through Oakland County beginning November 1, 2022. The fees are higher through Oakland County as shown in the table below. Residents can purchase their dog and cat licenses online for a very small fee so that residents are not forced to go out to Oakland County offices to renew their pet licenses. Further, Oakland County will honor all currently licensed dogs in the city until the city licenses expire. The City currently collects approximately \$7,500 for the sale of pet licenses however for the first three months of the fiscal year we have also spent just over \$6,000 paying Oakland County to house animals that we do not have room to house. This expense would be eliminated in this partnership agreement resulting in an overall financial benefit to the City.

Oakland County License	Spayed/Neutered	Male/Female	Madison Heights License	Spayed/Neutered	Male/Female
1-year (Dec 1-May 31)	\$15	\$25	1-year	\$7	\$10
3-year (Dec 1- May 31)	\$40	\$70	3-year	\$15	\$20
1-year (June 1 – Nov 30) late	\$40	\$40	1-year late	\$12	\$15
3-year (June 1 – Nov 30) late	\$55	\$85	3-year late	\$20	\$25
1-year senior	\$14	\$23			
3-year senior	\$37	\$64			
3-year senior delinquent	\$52	\$79			

ACO Holland would maintain his regular duties with the shelter and respond to animal complaints as necessary. ACO Holland would also be cross trained in Code Enforcement to assist with enforcement as time permits.

The recommendation of staff is to partner with Oakland County Animal Control beginning November 1, 2022, our ACO Holland will continue to handle those calls not addressed by Oakland County and assist with Code Enforcement as time permits.

Respectfully,



Corey K. Haines