



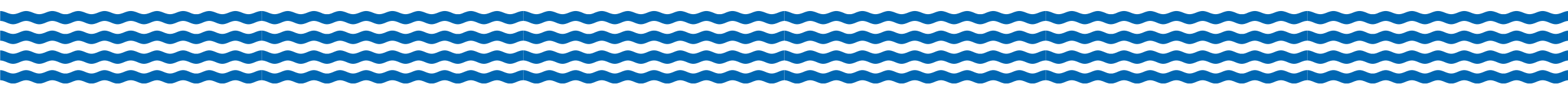
AB 6985: Updating the City's Animal Control Code

September 15, 2026



Animal Control Agenda Item Summary

- The City of Mercer Island receives animal licensing and control services from King County through the Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) interlocal agreement (ILA).
- Per the adopted ILA with RASKC, the City is obligated to “enact an ordinance or resolution that includes license, fee, penalty, enforcement, appeal, impound/redemption and sheltering provisions **that are substantially the same as those of Title 11 King County Code...**”
- Mercer Island’s animal code needs to be amended to align with King County’s 2023 update to KCC Title 11, per the requirements of the ILA.
- Regulations pertaining to animals within Mercer Island is governed by MICC Chapter 7.04 – Animal Code.



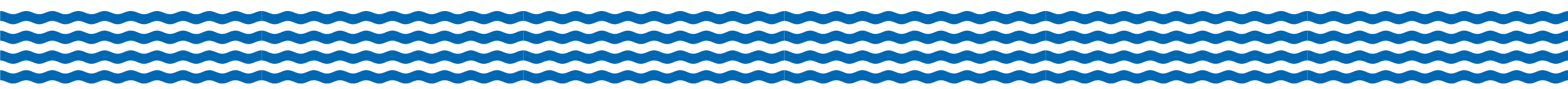
City Animal Control Costs and Services

- The table below shows revenue and expenses related to pet licensing revenue, costs of the RASKC ILA, Mercer Island Hearing Examiner costs, and costs related to outside legal support services for dangerous dog appeal cases.
- Costs net of the pet license revenue is paid for by the City General Fund, and pet license revenue does not cover all of the City's costs.

Description	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals
Revenues		
King County Pet Licenses	\$ 66,800	\$ 63,500
Expenses		
RASKC Interlocal Agreement	73,000	77,100
Hearing Examiner (<i>dangerous dog appeals</i>)	600	9,600
Outside Legal	14,400	61,500
Expenses Subtotal	\$ 88,000	\$ 148,200
Net Cost to City General Fund	\$ 21,200	\$ 84,700

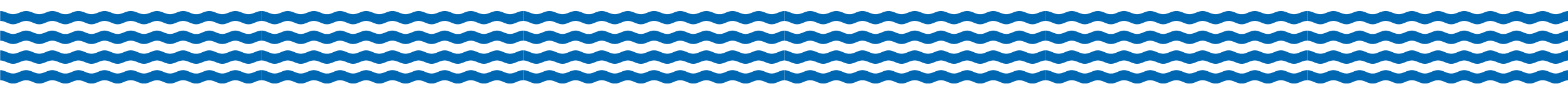
Aligning City Animal Control Code with KCC

- Staff recommend adopting the King County animal control code by reference. This is the approach most commonly used by cities that contract with RASKC.
- Alignment with County Code makes it easier for RASKC animal control officers to effectively enforce animal conduct rules on Mercer Island.
- The City Manager is recommending transferring the appeals for dangerous or potentially dangerous animals from the City Hearing Examiner to RASKC.
- Additional minor revisions to City Code are proposed to address inconsistencies in phrasing of definitions and policies.
- The City may continue to establish local policies on matters outside ILA subjects, including off-leash areas and Mercer Island-specific conduct requirements.



Animal Control Agenda Item Summary

- The draft ordinance, links to the City and County animal control codes, and summaries of code sections requiring substantive change are included in the agenda bill. Staff will not present on every proposed change tonight.
- While a draft ordinance is provided in your packet, we are not doing a first reading. Feedback received will be incorporated into a first reading of an ordinance later this fall.
- Tonight, staff would like to receive questions and feedback on proposed changes to the Animal Control Code.
- Most of these code changes are required under the terms of the RASKC ILA.



Questions

