

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-146

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF THE BROWARD COUNTY AUDIT OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION DIVISION, REPORT NO. 21-05, DATED DECEMBER 16, 2020; PROVIDING FOR SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIT GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES BY THE ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION DIVISION WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING BETTER CARE FOR THE DOGS AND CATS MAINTAINED AT THE SHELTER; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Broward County Adoption Shelter is maintained and operated by Broward County through the Animal Care and Adoption Division for the purposes of providing care of dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners requested that an audit of the overall operation of the Broward County Shelter be undertaken by the Broward County Office of the County Auditor; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2020, the Office of the County Auditor issued its Audit Report that found, among other things, the operation of the Shelter does not consistently adhere to best practices and laws, and that the programs and processes utilized at the Broward County Shelter are not operating effectively; and

WHEREAS, the audit identifies that 75% of the calls from the public, the majority of which relate directly to interest in the animals, go unanswered; and

WHEREAS, the audit indicates that the Broward County Shelter is at 65% of the staffing level needed to adequately provide full services to the public and needs to increase staffing by 30-36 full-time employees; and

WHEREAS, the audit identifies that the use of volunteers has been eliminated for

months, and recommends that the Volunteer Program be reinstated and efficiently administered; and

WHEREAS, the audit indicates the operation of the Shelter results in animals in interior kennels being left in the dark for 14-18 hours a day; and

WHEREAS, the current operation at the Shelter relative to animal confinement (kennels/cages) fails to meet industry standards, which requires a minimum of two feet of space between defecation, feeding and resting areas for felines and soft bedding for canines; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Shelter does not meet the “no-kill” guidelines established by Broward County. Statistics for October 2020 show 115 animal deaths - 27 died “in care” and 88 were euthanized, often without following proper protocol for public outreach before being euthanized; and

WHEREAS, the audit indicates that basic medical care is lacking due to insufficient veterinary oversight; and

WHEREAS, the audit identifies that outdoor canine play areas go unutilized while dogs are kept in cages day after day; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the City of Coconut Creek is to save the lives of all of the healthy, adoptable dogs, cats, horses, and other animals in the possession of Broward County animal shelters; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the City of Coconut Creek want to help bring about positive change for all the animals in the care and possession of the Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek expresses its concern that the Broward County Shelter, due to operational failures, fails to provide

adequate care for dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek finds and determines that it is in the best interest of its residents, business owners, and visitors to support the Broward County Audit Report of the Animal Care and Adoption Division dated December 16, 2020, and to support that all of the recommendations contained in the audit be immediately implemented and adhered to by the Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the foregoing “WHEREAS” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this resolution.

Section 2: That the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek supports the Broward County Audit Report of the Animal Care and Adoption Division dated December 16, 2020, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

Section 3: That the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek expresses its concern that the Broward County Shelter, due to operational failures, fails to provide adequate care for dogs and cats; and therefore, the City Commission fully supports that all the recommendations contained in the audit be immediately implemented and adhered to by the Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Division.

Section 4: That the City Commission hereby directs the City Clerk to transmit this resolution to all of the municipalities in Broward County, the Broward County Commission, and the Broward County League Cities to help support the Broward County Audit Report of the Animal Care and Adoption Division dated December 16, 2020.

Section 5: That if any clause, section, other part or application of this resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or in application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or applications of this resolution.

Section 6: That this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this 9th day of August, 2021.

Rebecca A. Tooley, Mayor

Attest:

Tooley Aye

Rydell Aye

Sarbone Aye

Welch Aye

Railey Aye