

RESOLUTION NO. 20131017-037

WHEREAS, as the first major City in the United States to successfully achieve no-kill at an open intake municipal shelter, the City of Austin is a national leader in animal welfare; and

WHEREAS, aquariums open to the public may bring beneficial opportunities for public education; and

WHEREAS, the potential for the first public aquarium in Austin has raised concerns about ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect the health and safety of animals and aquatic life that may be maintained at aquariums in Austin; and

WHEREAS, federal and state law includes some regulation of and safeguards for animals and aquatic life in an aquarium; and

WHEREAS, various governmental bodies and entities have established accreditation standards for public aquariums; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has an interest in understanding the different regulatory authorities and to what degree the City of Austin has authority to regulate aquariums; and

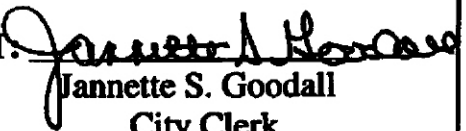
WHEREAS, other states such as Arizona have instituted regulations for aquariums at the state level; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to provide a report to Council, with input from the Animal Advisory Commission, on the regulatory authority of the federal, state,

and city governments to legislate safeguards for animals and aquatic life that are maintained at a public aquarium. The report shall also provide information on steps that governmental agencies and other entities have taken to enhance the health and safety of these animals and to accredit public aquariums.

ADOPTED: October 17, 2013

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk