



ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20170410-4B

Date: April 10, 2017

Subject: Texas House Bill 1916 Recommendation

Motioned by: Larry Tucker

Seconded by: Mike Kaviani

Recommendation

The Animal Advisory Commission (AAC) voted to recommend support of H.B. 1916, *Transparency for Texas Animal Shelters and Releasing Agencies*, by the Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners.

Description of Recommendation to Council

Because animal services jurisdictions work together regionally and state wide, and because Austin is looked to as a national leader in animal services excellence, and because transparency of data and statistics is integral for accountability, measuring success and charting a course for change, we believe the support of the bill is fundamentally important for the animal services profession in Texas.

The City of Austin legislative agenda currently excludes H.B. 1916, but the AAC feels that support of this bill is consistent with the City of Austin's history of promoting cutting edge animal welfare legislation. Best Friends Animal Society is asking for the City of Austin to officially endorse passage of this bill.

Rationale:

H.B. 1916 would;

- Require shelters and releasing agencies to keep accurate and consistent records about animals in their care, including
 - The number of dogs and cats that are adopted, euthanized, returned to their owners, lost while under their care, and transferred to other shelters
- Provide the public access to monthly records, by publishing the data on the organization's Website
- Bring accountability and transparency to our animal shelters and releasing agencies

Vote

For: 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

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Absent: 2

Signed:


Tawny Hammond, Chief Animal Services Officer