

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 691-2013

Meeting Date: December 3, 2013

From: MAYOR

Subject: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 17, SECTION 17.05.010 DEFINITIONS, TO REDEFINE CHRONIC ANIMAL NOISE; AMENDING SECTION 17.10.015 ANIMALS CREATING DISTURBANCE OR NUISANCE; AND AMENDING SECTION 17.15.090 INSPECTIONS.

Anchorage Animal Care and Control receives numerous public complaints pertaining to nuisance barking dogs. In reviewing these complaints, the Administration and the Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) determined Anchorage Municipal Code Title 17 (Animals) needed modifications in order to enhance relief for neighbors of barking dogs.

The recommended modifications will:

- 1) Limit daytime barking to five consecutive minutes to coincide with nighttime barking provisions. The amendment is designed to provide relief to shift workers that sleep during the day;
- 2) Limit twenty minute daytime barking allowances to licensed animal facilities with four or more dogs only. The modification will eliminate exceptions for facilities with mainly species other than dogs while keeping allowances for those that typically have four or more dogs such as dog mushers, dog rescue organizations and doggie daycares;
- 3) Clarify animals forfeited to the municipality due to barking must be adopted to a person other than the owner. This technical clarification will meet the original intent of the code and prevent reoccurrence of a resolved barking matter; and
- 4) Clarify a 72 hour notification of intent to inspect animal facilities is not required in order to respond to public complaints such as animal nuisance and welfare. The notification requirement, however, will remain in place for initial or renewal animal facility license inspections;

The Animal Control Advisory Board unanimously supports the recommended ordinance changes as detailed in their attached memorandum.

THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.

Prepared by: DeeAnn Fetko, Grants and Contracts Supervisor,
Department of Health and Human Services

Approved by: Janet S. Vietmeier, Director, Department of Health
and Human Services

Concur: Dennis A. Wheeler, Municipal Attorney

Concur: George J. Vakalis, Municipal Manager

Respectfully submitted: Daniel A. Sullivan, Mayor