

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
WATERSHED & NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01**

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AGAINST A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW THE
RELEASE OF STERILIZED FERAL CATS INTO THE WILD.**

(WNRC Case No. 2017-02)

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is considering a proposal submitted by Mojo's Hope and Alaska's KAAATs, both Anchorage-based cat advocacy organizations, to allow individuals to release sterilized feral cats into the wild, so that they may establish and maintain outdoor feral cat colonies; and

WHEREAS, based on American Veterinary Medical Association and Humane Society of the United States estimates, there are a projected 103,000 cats already inhabiting the Municipality of Anchorage, including about 30,000 feral cats; and

WHEREAS, cats can exist in densities many times higher than native predators, and are believed to be more abundant than any native predator because they are fed by humans; and

WHEREAS, even well-fed cats hunt and kill wild animals; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage's cats may kill at least 1,148,000 birds and 5,975,000 mammals annually, based on conservative national estimates in a peer-reviewed journal (Loss, Scott R., Tom Will, and Peter P. Mara. 2013. The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife in the United States. *Nature Communications* 4. <http://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms2380>); and

WHEREAS, cats are considered one of the world's 100 worst invasive species by the Invasive Species Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature; and

WHEREAS, cats are the primary source of all *Toxoplasma gondii* oocysts in soil, water, and human foods, and cats are the leading cause of rabies infections in humans from domestic animals; and

WHEREAS, trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs for feral cats, such as those advocated by Mojo's Hope, have been established in hundreds of other communities; and

WHEREAS, no TNR program has ever successfully eradicated feral cats from a large area like the Municipality because 71% to 94% of the cats must be sterilized to reduce population growth; and

WHEREAS, in fact, cities like Chicago that have hundreds of designated feral cat colonies appear to have more cats, and rats, now than ever before; and

WHEREAS, outdoor cat-feeding stations, which are prohibited by state law, attract other invasive species—house mice, rats, and pigeons—as well as wildlife such as foxes, coyotes, and bears; and

WHEREAS, the presence of maintained cat colonies encourages release of cats into the wild because the owners believe the abandoned cats will be cared for.

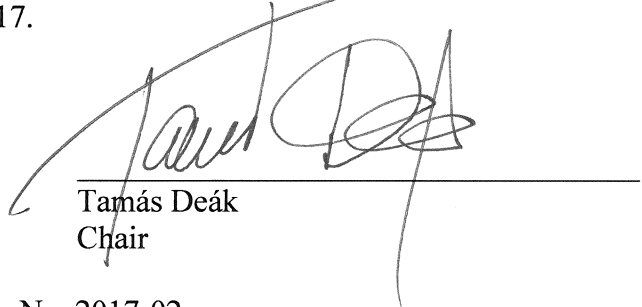
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission:

- A. Opposes the proposal before the State of Alaska Board of Game (#62) to allow the release of feral cats into the wild; and
- B. Opposes any efforts to establish a Track, Neuter, Release program in the Municipality of Anchorage.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission on this 13th day of September, 2017.



Hal H. Hart
Secretary



Tamás Deák
Chair