

# Memorandum



DATE August 21, 2017

CITY OF DALLAS

Honorable Members of the Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee: Sandy Greyson (Chair), Mark Clayton (Vice Chair), Rickey D. Callahan, Jennifer S. Gates, Scott Griggs, B. Adam McGough, Omar Narvaez

SUBJECT **Chapter 7-4.7 Recommendations for Tethering, Ordinance Update**

Attached are the briefing materials for the Chapter 7-4.7 Recommendations for Tethering, Ordinance Update that will be presented on Monday, August 28, 2017.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joey Zapata".

Joey Zapata

Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
Larry Casto, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager  
Jo M. (Jody) Puckett, Assistant City Manager (Interim)  
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager  
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer  
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services  
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services  
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience  
Directors and Assistant Directors

# Chapter 7-4.7 Recommendations for Tethering, Ordinance Update

Quality of Life, Arts &  
Culture Committee

August 28, 2017

Barbara Hobbs, Interim Director  
Dallas Animal Services



**City of Dallas**

# Presentation Overview

- Background Tethering
- DAS recommendations
- Enforcement - Implementation

# Tethering Background

- Proposed changes to original ordinance presented to Animal Advisory Commission 4/27/2017
  - Allow tethering 24/7
  - Must have adequate shelter and potable water
  - Must not be in standing water
  - Tether must be connect to a collar/harness, and tether cannot be a chain
  - Unobstructed range of motion and unlikely to become entangled and cause injury

# Tethering Background, cont.

- Current city ordinance allows tethering with restrictions
  - Ordinance is unenforceable due to time restrictions
  - Defense to prosecution makes prosecution difficult
- Animal Advisory Commission on April 27, 2017, voted to move forward with proposed changes

# Tethering Background, cont.

- Presented to Quality Of Life May 22, 2017
  - Voted not to move forward with recommendations
  - Requested further input from citizens
    - 2 Committees created
      - Citizen committee
      - AAC subcommittee
    - Requested tethering census

# Tethering Background, cont.

- Census BID request sent out by City
  - Sent out 2 times on June 28 and July 14
  - City contacted specific groups to see if interested
  - 7/21/2017 solicitation closed with no response

# DAS Recommendation

- Current DAS Recommendation
  - No tethering
    - Exception: allow tethering in presence of owner
  - Simplify current ordinance
    - Remove defense to prosecution



# DAS Recommendation, cont.

- Current DAS Recommendation
  - Education campaign to inform the public of tethering ordinance update
    - Allow for an education period minimum of 90 days, but not to exceed 6 months to allow enforcement on a case by case basis at the discretion of a DAS Field Supervisor

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