

# Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE February 6, 2015

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life & Environment Committee: Dwaine R. Caraway (Chair)  
Sandy Greyson (Vice Chair), Adam Medrano, Rick Callahan, Carolyn R. Davis, Lee M. Kleinman

SUBJECT Proposed Amendments to Animal Noise Ordinance

On Monday, February 9, 2015, the Quality of Life & Environment committee will be briefed on Proposed Amendments to Animal Noise Ordinance. The briefing is attached for your review.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata  
Assistant City Manager

## Attachment

c: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager  
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary  
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Eric D. Campbell, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer  
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager – Mayor & Council

# Proposed Amendments to Animal Noise Ordinance

City of Dallas

Quality of Life & Environment Committee

February 9, 2015



# Purpose

- ▶ Provide and review requested changes to ordinances regulating noise disturbances by animals requested by the Committee on November 10, 2014

# Requested Changes

- ▶ Change the ordinance definition of barking, howling, crowing or other noise that is "unreasonable"
  - ▶ Proposal: Lower the standard from 15 to 5 continuous minutes in duration

# Requested Changes

- ▶ Per Committee request, written policy will:
  - ▶ Require site inspection upon receipt of third complaint in one calendar month
    - ▶ Continue compliance verification for animal registration, vaccination, spay/neuter and noise regulations
    - ▶ Utilize civil citations as needed
  - ▶ Not factor whether an animal is being provoked into barking in order to establish a violation

# Requested Changes

- ▶ Not require two additional, non-related witnesses for complaints filed by complainants with the City Attorney
  - ▶ Option 1: Decrease to one non-related witness
  - ▶ Option 2: Remove outside complaint process for animal noise
  - ▶ Option 3: No change

# Next Steps

- ▶ With Committee recommendation, draft an ordinance for City Council consideration for March 25, 2015

# Appendix: Current Process for Disturbances by Animals

- ▶ Complaint based
- ▶ Letter sent to identified owner and complainant
- ▶ Three complaints triggers DAS Officer site visit
- ▶ If violation confirmed, criminal citation issued
  - Criminal citations may be issued for other Chapter 7 violations as well

