



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
City Commission Agenda Memo  
REGULAR MEETING**

**#17-0683**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** June 6, 2017

**TITLE:** First Reading of Ordinance Amending Chapter 6, Animals, Article II, Dogs  
and Cats of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve an ordinance to amend Chapter 6, Animals, Article II, Dogs and Cats, to restrict the retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores in the City.

**Background**

At the February 7, 2017, City Commission Conference Meeting, the City Commission discussed regulating dog and cat retail stores, specifically pet stores that operate as “puppy mills.” The City Commission had further discussion on March 7, 2017, at the City Commission Conference Meeting.

Chapter 6, Animals, Article II, Dogs and Cats, is amended by creating a new Section 6 – 36 to provide as follows:

- No pet store shall offer for retail sale or otherwise dispose of dogs or cats in the City on or after the effective date of this Ordinance.
  
- Section 6-36 does not apply to any of the following:
  - A publicly operated animal control facility;
  - An animal shelter;
  - A private, charitable, nonprofit humane society or animal rescue organization;
  - A publicly operated animal control agency, nonprofit humane society, or nonprofit animal rescue organization that operates out of or in connection with a pet store.
  
- A pet store operator shall post and maintain in a conspicuous place, on or within three (3) feet of each animal’s kennel, cage or enclosure, a Certificate of Source for each dog or cat owned by an animal shelter or animal rescue organization which is being maintained at the pet store for the purpose of adopting those animals.

- The Certificate of Source shall:
  - Contain a brief description of the dog or cat, the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the source (animal shelter or animal rescue organization) of the dog or cat;
  - Be signed by the pet store certifying that the pet store received the dog or cat from an animal rescue organization or animal shelter; and
  - Be signed by the purchaser or transferee of the dog or cat acknowledging receipt of the Certificate of Source.
  
- A pet store operator must prove that each dog or cat offered for sale comes from an animal shelter, rescue organization or non-breeding facility.
  
- Any law enforcement officer or code compliance inspector may, at any time, request to review copies of such certificates and, upon such request, the pet store operator must present such certificates at that time and without delay.
  
- Falsification of a Certificate of Source by a pet store, pet store operator, or any other person shall be deemed a violation of this section.

Nothing in Section 6-36 shall prevent a pet store or its owner, operator, or employees, from providing space and appropriate care for animals owned by an animal shelter or animal rescue organization and maintained at the pet store for the purpose of adopting those animals.

A violation of this Section 6-36, for which a citation is issued, is a civil infraction subject to the enforcement procedures set forth in Chapter 11 of the City of Fort Lauderdale Code of Ordinances. The uncontested civil penalty is \$100.00 and the contested civil penalty is \$175.00.

**Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Strategic Connections**

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Neighborhood Enhancement Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 5: Be a community of strong, beautiful, and healthy neighborhoods.
- Objective 2: Enhance the beauty, aesthetics, and environmental quality of neighborhoods.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Here*.

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Proposed Ordinance

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Prepared by: Ryan Henderson, City Manager’s Office  
 Department Director: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager