

BILL NO. _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ADOPTION RATES AT THE REGIONAL ANIMAL SHELTER, INCLUDING UTILIZING FREE AND REDUCED ADOPTION FEES. *(Item Requested by Councilmember Brice Stewart)*

WHEREAS, the City of Independence operates the Regional Animal Shelter through the Health and Animal Services Department; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently 53 cats and 79 dogs being cared for at the Regional Animal Shelter; and,

WHEREAS, the average length of stay at the Regional Animal Shelter is approximately 33 days for dogs and 20 days for cats; and,

WHEREAS, the City's Schedule of Fees establishes adoption fees for animals at the shelter, including fees of \$25-\$450 for dogs over 8 months old, \$200-\$450 for puppies, \$25-\$150 for cats over 8 months old, and \$75-\$175 for kittens; and,

WHEREAS, item 3.2.D of the Independence Action Plan seeks to "maintain status as a no-kill animal shelter"; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council further desires to increase adoption rates at the Regional Animal Shelter; and,

WHEREAS, organizations such as the KC Pet Project have implemented programs like "Waived Fee Wednesdays" on a weekly basis to increase adoption rates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. That, as directed by Section 3.2.D of the Action Plan, the City Manager shall develop recommendations regarding strategies to increase adoption rates at the Regional Animal Shelter.

SECTION 2. That the strategies to be developed by the City Manager shall include, but not be limited to, the implementation of free and reduced adoption fees as deemed necessary to enhance the adoption of animals at the Regional Animal Shelter and maintain the status as a no-kill animal shelter.

SECTION 4. That the City Manager shall modify adoption fees in such a manner and with such frequency so as to achieve the mission of Animal Services, which is "to protect the safety and welfare of people and animals in our community by promoting an environment of responsible pet ownership."

SECTION 3. That the City Manager shall provide a \$25 gift card to the first 25 people that adopt a pet after January 1, 2024 for the Animal Shelter Gift Store or another local pet store of the City Managers choosing. Funds shall be allocated from the reserve balance of the Animal Shelter Use Tax Fund.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

Presiding Officer of the City Council
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

City Manager