

Shelley Berkley, Mayor (At-Large)
Brian Knudsen, Mayor Pro Tem (Ward 1)
Victoria Seaman (Ward 2)
Olivia Díaz (Ward 3)
Francis Allen-Palenske (Ward 4)
Shondra Summers-Armstrong (Ward 5)
Nancy E. Brune (Ward 6)



City Manager Mike Janssen
City Attorney Jeff Dorocak
City Clerk LuAnn D. Holmes

City Council Agenda

Council Chambers · 495 South Main Street · Phone 702-229-6011
City of Las Vegas Internet Address: www.lasvegasnevada.gov

February 19, 2025
9:00 AM

42. Bill No. 2024-41 - For possible action - Amends Title 2 of the Las Vegas Municipal Code by adding Chapter 2.67 to establish the Animal Advisory Committee. Sponsored by: Councilwoman Victoria Seaman

Minutes:

STEPHANI LOFFREDO, REGINA HARMAN, RON MURRAY, KATHLEEN WEATHERSPOON, DEBRA MITCHELL, ANNOULA WYLDERICH, DR. KAREN LAYNE, JOSE GARCIA, OFFICER CHRISTOPHER REULAS-WOODS, PATRICIA REID, TRACY PAZ, BAILEE BOB SVEEN, JILL LUTTINEN, MARIOLA LETOWSKA, and MELANIE SHAYNE expressed support for establishing the Animal Advisory Committee (Committee) to support animals in crisis, the City of Las Vegas, animal shelters, and rescues. MS. WYLDERICH felt the advisory group should be multi-jurisdictional with the priority focus of establishing clear objectives and implementing solutions. MR. GARCIA wanted to Chair the Committee. MS. PAZ used the overhead to display photos of animals that were scheduled for euthanasia that morning.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMAN thanked everyone for speaking on behalf of the animals and reported that CHIEF JASON POTTS, Department of Public Safety Director, was fine with the Committee. She acknowledged that her colleagues may prefer a multi-jurisdictional advisory committee, but she felt that the city was in crisis. She encouraged supporters of the Committee to not give up if the bill was not adopted.

COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ expressed concern regarding the narrative that the City Council does not care about animals. She stated that they had adopted eight ordinances in advocacy and in concert with the community, noting that the adoption of any ordinance requires the entire Council's approval. She disclosed that she had an open mind but felt the proposal was incomplete. She believed this was a Southern Nevada issue, since the issues do not lie solely within the city of Las Vegas. Similarly to the unhoused population not understanding jurisdictional boundaries, she said stray animals do not either. Further, the Councilwoman acknowledged that the City relies on the work of animal rescues and shelters, which she thanked for their efforts.

MAYOR BERKLEY appreciated everyone for attending on multiple occasions to speak on behalf of the animals. She disclosed that her only motivation at this point in her career was to do what is in the best interest for the people of Las Vegas. She agreed with COUNCILWOMAN DIAZ and felt they needed to take a regional approach to this crisis. She had spoken with Clark County Commissioners, City of North Las Vegas Councilmembers, and the Mayor of Henderson, noting that they were anxious to work together. The Mayor referenced an ordinance that was passed by Clark County to ban pet shops. She explained that before the ordinance was passed there were two pet shops within the city of Las Vegas and now there are 10 to 12, noting that working collectively would have solved the issue rather than moving it to a different jurisdiction. She felt they should work directly with veterinarians and those that manage animal rescues and shelters in Southern Nevada. Additionally, she believed they must find a way to encourage veterinarians to settle in Las Vegas to assist with spaying, neutering, and microchipping efforts. MAYOR BERKLEY encouraged those who have solutions to contact their Councilmember or her office, stating that she would continue her efforts to form a multi-jurisdictional Committee.

See Item 8 for related discussion.

Motion made by Brian Knudsen to Deny

NOTE: An initial motion by Councilwoman Seaman to Approve Failed with Mayor Berkley and Councilmembers Knudsen, Diaz, Allen-Palenske, Summers-Armstrong, and Brune voting No.

Passed For: 6; Against: 1; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

For-Nancy Brune, Olivia Diaz, Shelley Berkley, Brian Knudsen, Francis Allen-Palenske, Shondra Summers-Armstrong; Against-Victoria Seaman;



AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
City Council
Meeting of: February 19, 2025

Agenda Item No.:
42

DEPARTMENT: City Attorney
DIRECTOR: Jeff Dorocak

DISCUSSION

SUBJECT:

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE: BILLS ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION AT THIS MEETING

Bill No. 2024-41 - For possible action - Amends Title 2 of the Las Vegas Municipal Code by adding Chapter 2.67 to establish the Animal Advisory Committee. Sponsored by: Councilwoman Victoria Seaman

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

This bill will amend Title 2 of the Las Vegas Municipal Code by adding Chapter 2.67 to establish the Animal Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to serve as an advisory body to the City Council with respect to animal-related issues, policies, and practices.

RECOMMENDATION:

FORWARDED to the February 19, 2025 City Council Meeting with a recommendation of Do Not Pass pursuant to the February 3, 2025 Recommending Committee Meeting

First Reading – 12/4/2024

First Publication – 2/6/2025

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Bill No. 2024-41

BILL NO. 2024-41

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND LVMC TITLE 2 BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER THEREIN, DESIGNATED AS CHAPTER 2.67, TO ESTABLISH THE ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsored by: Councilwoman Victoria Seaman

Summary: Amends Title 2 of the Las Vegas Municipal Code by adding Chapter 2.67 to establish the Animal Advisory Committee.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Title 2 of the Municipal Code of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, 1983 Edition, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new chapter, designated as Chapter 67, consisting of Sections 10 to 70, inclusive, reading as follows:

2.67.010: There is created an Animal Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Animal Advisory Committee is to serve as an advisory body to the City Council with respect to animal-related issues, policies, and practices.

2.67.020: All committee members shall be appointed by the City Council. Each City Council member shall nominate one committee member for appointment.

2.67.030: The Advisory Committee shall consist of seven voting members and one non-voting staff member, ex officio, who will be assigned to the committee by the Director of Public Safety, or the Director's designee. Each voting member shall be a resident of the City. Persons appointed to the Advisory Committee shall receive no compensation. Members preferably include individuals with the following experience:

Veterinarians: Professionals with expertise in animal health and welfare, providing medical insights and guidance.

Animal Welfare Experts: Individuals with experience in animal protection, rescue, and advocacy, who can offer informed perspectives on best practices and policies.

Community Representatives: Local residents who bring a diverse range of views and concerns from different neighborhoods and sectors of the community.

1 Animal Shelter/Rescue Organization Representatives: Leaders or staff from local shelters and rescue groups,
2 who have firsthand experience with animal care and community needs.

3 Legal Experts: Professionals knowledgeable about animal law and regulations, helping to navigate legal
4 aspects of recommendations made by the Advisory Committee.

5 Education and Outreach Coordinators: Individuals experienced in public education who can help design and
6 implement community awareness programs on animal welfare issues.

7 **2.67.040:** The Advisory Committee shall annually elect from among its members a chairperson and a
8 secretary. Officers shall serve a term of one year, or until a successor is elected. The duties of the officers
9 shall respectively be as are usually carried by such officers.

10 **2.67.050:** The Advisory Committee shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council. The term of each
11 member of the Advisory Board is coterminous with the term of the member of the City Council who
12 nominated the Advisory Board member for appointment, except that a member may continue to serve until
13 a successor is appointed.

14 **2.67.060:** The Advisory Committee may adopt a code of conduct, bylaws, and make rules and
15 regulations governing its meetings. The Director of Public Safety, or the Director's designee, shall serve ex-
16 officio to represent the City's interests and to function as liaison between the Advisory Board and the City.

17 (A) A majority of the appointed Advisory Committee members shall constitute a quorum.

18 (B) No other person or substitute may participate in any Advisory Committee meeting in the
19 place of an appointed member.

20 (C) The Advisory Committee shall meet a minimum of four times per calendar year.

21 **2.67.070:** The functions, powers, and duties of the Advisory Committee shall be as follows:

22 (A) The Advisory Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the City Council and City staff,
23 to assist with the identification of animal-related issues and the development of plans and recommended
24 practices concerning care and welfare of animals.

25 (B) The Advisory Committee shall not operate in a regulatory or authoritative capacity. The
26 Advisory Committee shall act in advisory capacity only.

1 (C) The Advisory Committee may advise the City Council and City staff regarding revisions to
2 this Title. The Advisory Committee shall make requests and recommendations in writing to City Council and
3 City staff.

4 (D) The Advisory Committee shall comply with all provisions of federal, state, and local laws.

5 SECTION 2: If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase
6 in this ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by
7 any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the
8 remaining portions of this ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council of the City of Las Vegas hereby
9 declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase
10 thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs,
11 sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional, invalid or ineffective.

12 SECTION 3: All ordinances or parts of ordinances or sections, subsections, phrases,
13 sentences, clauses or paragraphs contained in the Municipal Code of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, 1983
14 Edition, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

15 PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.


16 APPROVED:

17 By _____
18 SHELLEY BERKLEY, Mayor

19 ATTEST:

20 _____
21 DR. LUANN D. HOLMES, MMC
City Clerk

22 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

23  11/21/2024
24 Tamara M. Cannella, Date
Deputy City Attorney

1 The above and foregoing ordinance was first proposed and read by title to the City Council on the ____ day
2 of _____, 2024, and referred to a committee for recommendation, the committee being
3 composed of the following members _____;
4 thereafter the said committee reported favorably on said ordinance on the ____ day of
5 _____, 2025, which was a _____ meeting of said Council; that at said
6 _____ meeting, the proposed ordinance was read by title to the City Council as first
7 introduced and adopted by the following vote:

8 VOTING "AYE": _____

9 VOTING "NAY": _____

10 ABSENT: _____

11 APPROVED:

12
13 By _____
SHELLEY BERKLEY, Mayor

14 ATTEST:

15 _____
16 DR. LUANN D. HOLMES, MMC
City Clerk

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