

8/10/15

Mayor Martini, Councilpersons and audience.

I am here to comment on the first reading of Bill 2693, an ordinance to amend Title 20 of the Sparks Municipal Code.

I am concerned about the inclusion of feral cats as a "high risk species" in your list of prohibited practices.

The City of Sparks currently shares the services of the Washoe County Regional Animal Services Department with the City of Reno and Washoe County. The City of Sparks is also considered part of Washoe County. On April 14th, 2015 a first reading was done on proposed changes to be made to the Washoe County Animal Code and ordinance 1556 passed on the 28th of April 2015. These changes were made after much debate by the County Commissioners who serve all of Washoe County residents.

Now, the City of Sparks wants to violate Washoe County Animal Code by changing their zoning laws to outlaw feral cat colonies.

I have some serious concerns about this. Some are ethical and others are financial.

I know you can't answer me now, but I would like an answer before you hear this item for a second time.

1. Who is going to police this prohibited practice?
2. Are you planning on having neighbors and family members turning in people who are compassionate and like having outdoor fixed feral cats keeping the mice population down? This sounds vaguely similar to something that happened in the 1930s.
3. Who is going to pay for the monitoring?
4. How are you going to determine whether a cat is feral or an outside cat? Cats are allowed to roam free in Nevada? Are you ready to pay for lawsuits that owners will bring against you for the destruction of their pets?
5. If you allow this, who is going to pay for the trapping and killing of feral cats. WCRAS doesn't have the facilities to manage mass killings of cats so something will have to be built. Who will pay for something that could cost upwards of \$1 million dollars to build.
6. Do you realize that one cat and her kittens can have perhaps as many as 100 cats in a year providing all kittens survive until maturity.
7. Who is going to trap all these cats?
8. Washoe County has a system in place to work with this situation, why are you trying to destroy something that works?
9. Are you ready for lawsuits against you for violating Washoe County Animal Code?
10. Do you really want to kill cats, who through no fault of their own, found themselves outside with no protection?
11. Do you really think this will stop abandonment of animals.
12. Do you really want to go backwards in time and be known as a regressive city?
13. Currently the feral cat colonies cost the taxpayers of Washoe County nothing. Are you willing to go to the voters of Sparks and ask for a tax increase to cover this increased cost.

14. *Can we not all work together to solve an issue without killing animals?*
Please do not let a small group of people convince you to kill cats. ~~I would hate for the City of Sparks to be known as -~~
~~Cat Killing-it's happening here!~~ Thank you.

Deborah Banks

*A definition, TWRM means Trap, Neuter,
Return & Monitor*