



REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Agenda Date Requested: <u>8-26-24</u>
Requested By: <u>Scott Pullig, Chief of Police</u>
Department: <u>52 - Police</u>
<input type="radio"/> Report <input type="radio"/> Resolution <input checked="" type="radio"/> Ordinance

Appropriation	
Source of Funds:	_____
Account Number:	_____
Amount Budgeted:	_____
Amount Requested:	_____
Budgeted Item:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Exhibits: Ordinance 2024-4017 Showing Revisions
Ordinance 2024-4017

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

A public forum was held at City Hall to allow residents to ask questions or address concerns regarding the Animal Adoption Center and Animal Control Division. At that time, several residents spoke up regarding possible City Ordinance changes for the number of animals allowed at a residence and whether to exempt foster animals from that maximum. As a result, city staff revised and amended the existing code to reflect these necessary changes.

City staff revised the existing Code to clarify the definitions in Chapter 14, "Animals," Section 14.1, "Definitions." Under this Section, "Animal," "Animal foster home," "Cat," "Dog," "Livestock," and "Premises" have been added and defined. The definition of "Kennel" has been modified to show an increase of allowable dogs and/or cats from four (4) to five (5). The definition of "Running at large off the premises" has been modified to remove "dog" and change it to "animal." The definition of "Running at large on the premises" has been modified to remove "dog" and change it to "animal, with the exception of a cat."

Section 14-3, "Duties of owners and persons in control and protection of animals," has been amended to provide language specific to keeping dog and/or cat kennels. Under Section 14-3 (6), language was added to make it lawful to keep, maintain, own or operate a dog or cat kennel in any residential district within the corporate limits of the city if the lot is in excess of 43,560 square feet.

The code was also revised by amending Chapter 14, "Animals," Article III, "Dogs and Cats," Division 1, "Generally." Here, Section 14-86, "Maximum number of dogs and cats," was added and makes it unlawful for any person to keep any combination of dogs or cats, exceeding four (4), provided that person is not operating a kennel or maintaining foster dogs and/or cats in accordance with this code. Section 14-87, "Animal foster home for dogs," was added and provides guidance to maintain a foster home.

In Chapter 22, "Businesses," Article III, "Kennels and Pet Establishments," Division 1 "Generally," Section 22-156 "Definitions" was modified. Here, the definition of "Kennel" was modified to show an increase of allowable dogs and/or cats from four (4) to five (5). Section 22-176 "Required" was expanded to define the property size necessary to keep breeding kennels. Breeding kennels are permitted only on lots in excess of 43,560 feet, and all dogs and/or cats must be boarded in enclosures located no closer than 100 feet from any property line. These changes reflect concerns that were addressed during the public forum.

City staff supports these changes as they provide clarity to the public and allow households currently at the maximum number of allowed dogs, cats, or a combination of both in their home to add a foster dog or cat.

STRATEGIC PLAN STRATEGY AND GOAL

Implementing the changes to the regulations governing the keeping of animals in Chapter 14, "Animals," and Chapter 22, "Businesses" of the City's Code of Ordinance is in accordance with the following of the City's 2024 Strategic Plan Guiding Principles:

Governance: The City of La Porte is governed in a transparent, efficient, accountable and responsive manner on behalf of its citizens that actively promotes citizen involvement.

ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL

Presentation, discussion, and possible action to approve Ordinance No. 2024-4017, amending Chapter 14, "Animals" and Chapter 22, "Businesses" of the City of La Porte Code of Ordinances.

Approved for the City Council meeting agenda

Corby D. Alexander, City Manager

Date