

ORDINANCE 22-C-21

Synopsis: This Ordinance, if adopted, would amend Chapter 91 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntington, Indiana to allow for a mechanism for managing the City's free-roaming cat population by authorizing trapping, neutering, and returning "community cats".

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON, INDIANA TO AMEND CHAPTER 91 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, the City of Huntington, Indiana has received reports and complaints from citizens concerning free-roaming cats and their unchecked reproduction; and

WHEREAS, current City ordinances discourage and prohibit residents from trapping, spaying/neutering, and releasing free-roaming cats; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana has determined that the process known as Trap-Neuter-Return, is the preferred approach for managing the City's free-roaming cat population; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Huntington, Indiana that a new Section 91.20 of Chapter 91 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntington, Indiana, titled Management of Cat Population is hereby enacted as follows:

"SECTION 91.20: MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATION. Notwithstanding any provision in this Chapter to the contrary, the process, hereinafter referred to as Trap-Neuter-Return, is the preferred approach for managing the City's free-roaming cat population.

SECTION 91.21 DEFINITIONS. For purposes of this Section and Chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "*Community Cat*" is a member of the domestic species *Felis Catus* and shall mean a free-roaming cat who may be cared for by one or more residents of the immediate area who is/are known or unknown; a community cat may or may not be feral. Community cats are not wildlife.
2. "*Community Cat Caregiver*" shall mean a person who, in accordance with and pursuant to the policy of Trap-Neuter-Return described herein, provides care, including food, shelter or medical care to a community cat while not being considered the owner, harbinger, controller, or keeper of the community cat.
3. "*Eartipping*" shall mean the removal of the distal one-quarter of a community cat's left ear which is approximately 3/8-inch, or 1 cm, in an adult and proportionately smaller in a kitten. This procedure is performed under sterile conditions while the cat is under anesthesia, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law, and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Eartips

are designed to identify a community cat as being sterilized and lawfully vaccinated for rabies.

4. “*Trap-Neuter-Return*” shall mean the process of humanely trapping, sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, eartipping, and returning community cats to their original location.

SECTION 91.22 PERMITTED ACTS. The following actions shall be permitted in the City as part of Trap-Neuter-Return:

1. Trapping for the sole purpose of sterilizing, vaccinating for rabies, and eartipping community cats, in compliance with any applicable federal or state law, and under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, where applicable.
2. An eartipped cat received by local shelters will be returned to the location where trapped unless veterinary care is required. A trapped eartipped cat will be released on site unless veterinarian care is required.
3. Community cat caregivers are empowered to reclaim impounded community cats without proof of ownership solely for the purpose of conducting Trap-Neuter-Return and/or returning eartipped community cats to their original locations.
4. A person who returns a community cat to its original location while conducting Trap-Neuter-Return is not deemed to have abandoned the cat.
5. Trap-Neuter-Return shall be the preferred disposition for impounded community cats.

BE IT FINALLY ORDAINED THAT, all ordinances, or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed, and this ordinance shall be effective from and after January 1, 2022.

[Signature Block Next Page]

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A motion to consider for final adoption on the same day of introduction was [NOT OFFERED or NOT SUSTAINED or SUSTAINED] by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 in opposition.

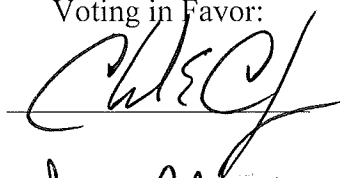
Duly adopted on first reading this 9 day of November, 2021, by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 in opposition.

Duly adopted on final reading this 9 day of November, 2021, by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 in opposition.

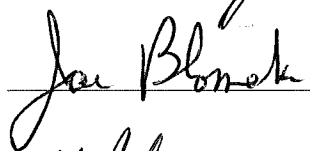
CITY OF HUNTINGTON, INDIANA by its COMMON COUNCIL

Voting in Favor:

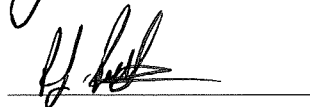
Voting in Opposition:



Charles Chapman
(President)



Joe Blomeke



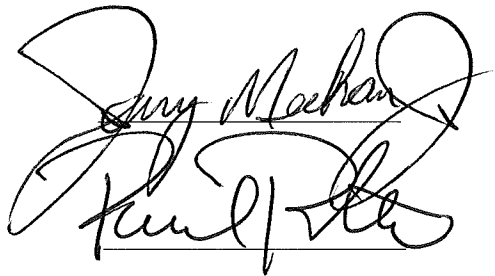
P J Felton



Dave Funk

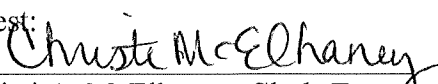


Seth Marshall

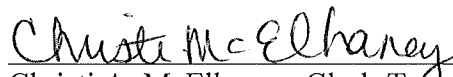


Jerry Meehan Jr.

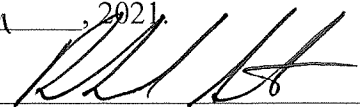
Attest:


Christi A. McElhaney, Clerk-Treasurer

Presented by me to the Mayor for approval or veto, this 9 day of November, 2021.


Christi A. McElhaney, Clerk-Treasurer

This ordinance having been adopted by the Common Council and presented to me is [APPROVED or VETOED], this 9 day of November, 2021.


Richard Strick, Mayor