



We Are Columbia

**COLUMBIA HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

The Columbia Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Second Floor, Columbia, SC 29201. The meeting can be viewed online at www.columbiasc.gov. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.gov if you have questions regarding the meeting.

The Honorable Aditi Bussells, At-Large, Chair

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., District II ▪ The Honorable Tyler D. Bailey, At-Large

Prior to entering the meeting please turn all electronic communication devices to the silent, vibrate or off position. All presenters are asked to speak directly into the microphone for recording purposes.

CALL TO ORDER

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. Animal Services Ordinance Update - Ms. Victoria Riles, Animal Services Superintendent
2. Update from Pawmetto Lifeline - Ms. Denise Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer
3. Update from Final Victory Animal Rescue - Ms. Katy Cowan, Founder & Director
4. Revisions to the Climate Protection Action Committee's Bylaws - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator

PRESENTATIONS

5. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator

ADJOURNMENT



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MEETING DATE: February 27, 2024

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: **Animal Services Ordinance Update - Ms. Victoria Riles,
Animal Services Superintendent**

**FUNDING SOURCE &
ORIGINAL BUDGET:**

ATTACHMENTS:

- Animal_Services_Ordinance_Update (PDF)

HISTORY:

12/12/23

Next: 02/27/24

Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee

MEETING CANCELLED

Columbia Animal Services

Ordinance Change Status Update



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Spay and Neuter Mandate Discussion

All Pets

- Legalities pertaining to professional and responsible breeding
- Not supported on a national level

Bully Breeds

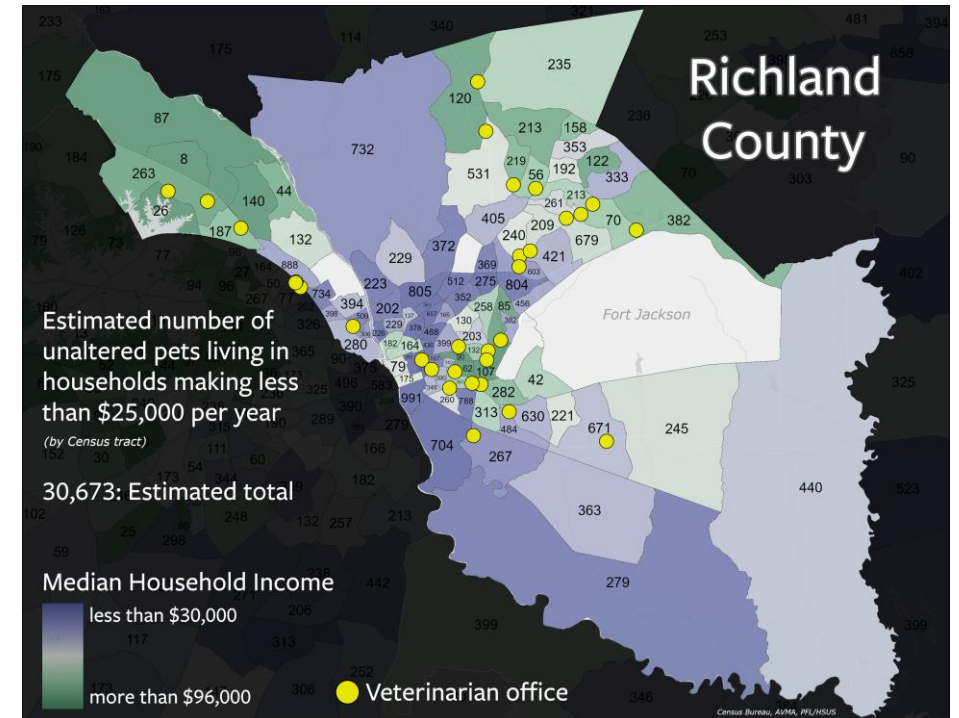
- 75% of dog breeds are inaccurately guessed without DNA testing
- Significant resistance on legislative level (HSUS, ASPCA, Best Friends)

Reasons this is not supported

- Unfunded mandate on citizens
- Criminalizes poverty
- Will contradict positive community engagement efforts
- Possible intake increase

Recommendations

National groups recommend municipalities support an infrastructure that incentivizes the procedure and provides all community members access to spay/neuter services.



Re-Cap of Proposed Ordinance Changes

- City of Columbia will offer a \$25.00 one-time lifetime pet license if pet is spayed/neutered, vaccinated for rabies, and microchipped
 - *\$5 pet annual license still in place for altered, un-microchipped pets*
- \$100 annual fee if the pet is not spayed/neutered
- Language changes to spay/neuter exemptions to make this area more clear and concise.
- Ordinance draft has been reviewed by City Council
- Online licensing option
- Request to defer out to council for enactment July 1, 2024
- Meeting with Richland County
 - Richland County is in support of licensing changes and will explore similar changes of their own with their council during budget review, early 2024.
 - Discussed meeting options for City, Richland, and Lexington to explore ordinance review, spay and neuter mandates.

Preparation for Implementation

1. Met with Chameleon Team
 - *Discuss online licensing options and capabilities*
2. Met with City's IT, payment, accounting, and database administrator departments
 - *Determine which payment service will be used*
 - *Determine security aspects and liabilities to ensure online licensing is in line with the City's security parameters.*
3. Legal Review & Quote
 - *Legal review will determine if there is a contract and what its terms and conditions are*
 - *Budgetary review for purchase*
4. Launch - **underway**
 - *Chameleon and IT are working together to install and launch the software.*
5. Proposed start date of ordinance change July 1, 2024
 - *Allow RC time to follow suit*

 = complete

Pet-fix & Return Pilot Program

Program Goals & Objective

- To increase spay and neuter within zip codes that most contribute to shelter intake.

Success Metrics

- To spay/neuter, vaccinate, and microchip a minimum of 50 community animals within 29203 by the end of 2024.

Benefits

- Prevent birth of approximately 175 puppies
 - 25 females; 7 puppies per litter, on average
- Increase public safety
 - Studies show 60-80% of dog bites are by intact males or pregnant/nursing females
 - Intact males have higher tendencies to roam due to marking instincts, especially if there is an in heat female nearby.
 - Unaltered male dogs between 1.5-2 years (sexual maturity) are more likely to display aggressive behaviors and fight with other dogs.
- Creates positive community engagement resulting in willingness to comply, verses policed mandates.



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MEETING DATE: February 27, 2024

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: Update from Pawmetto Lifeline - Ms. Denise Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer

FUNDING SOURCE & ORIGINAL BUDGET:

ATTACHMENTS:

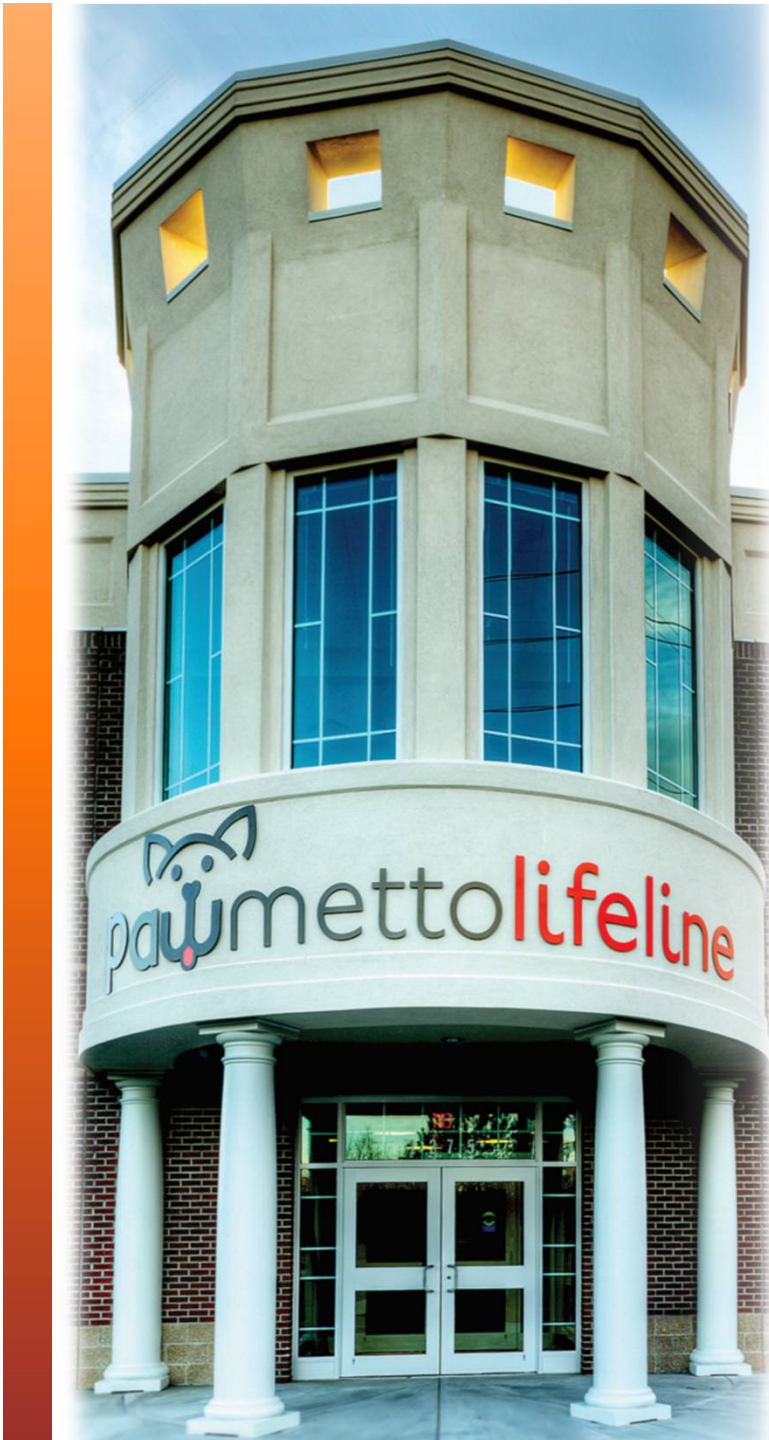
- Pawmetto Lifeline Update (PDF)

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) animal welfare organization formed in 1999 to proactively address the companion pet overpopulation problem in South Carolina.

OUR MISSION

Create a No-Kill community, meaning no healthy, treatable, adoptable pet will be euthanized simply because they are homeless

(



HERE'S THE PROBLEM...

10,000 humans are born in the U.S. every day.
(3.6 million per year)

70,000 puppies and kittens are born every day.
(25 million per year)

(Source: North Shore Animal League)

South Carolina was one of the TOP THREE states that people moved to post COVID.
67% of those families have pets,



THE SOLUTION

1. Mandatory Spay Neuter/Micro-chipping Ordinance for cats and dogs
2. Enforced Pet Licensing Program
3. Managed Intake
4. When shelters are full, issue a Temporary Moratorium on Intakes



MIDLANDS STATISTICS

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 **8,415 homeless dogs and cats** entered municipal animal shelters in Richland & Lexington counties.

1,656

(or approximately **20%**)
of animals that entered these
shelters were **euthanized.**

1999: 90%
2015: 51%
2018: 32%
2020: 25%
2021: 15%
2022: 20%
2023: 26%

The
Euthanasia
rate for large
breed dogs
continues to
rise



The Challenge: large breed mix dogs

60-70% of dogs being euthanized in shelters are pit bull type dogs. They are dying at the highest rate in municipal shelters statewide and nationwide. Adoptions will not solve the problem.

Spaying and neutering will create a balance between supply and demand.

Licensing will create a revenue stream for spaying/neutering.

Pawmetto Lifeline will alter any large breed dog/pit that receives a citation at a discount or free.

Together we can solve this problem.





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MEETING DATE: February 27, 2024

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

FROM: *Erika Hammond, City Clerk*

SUBJECT: Update from Final Victory Animal Rescue - Ms. Katy Cowan,
Founder & Director

**FUNDING SOURCE &
ORIGINAL BUDGET:**



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MEETING DATE: February 27, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Legal Department

FROM: *Teresa Knox, City Attorney*

SUBJECT: Revisions to the Climate Protection Action Committee's Bylaws - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator

FUNDING SOURCE & ORIGINAL BUDGET:

FOCUS AREAS: Planning Together

ATTACHMENTS:

- R-2023-094 - CPAC adopt amended by-laws (PDF)
- CPRG UPDATE (PPTX)

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2023-094

*Adopting the By-Laws of the Climate Protection Action Committee
Last Revised July 29, 2023*

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this _____ day of _____, 2023 that the attached By-Laws of the Climate Protection Action Committee, Last Revised July 29, 2023 are hereby adopted.

Requested by:

Councilmember Bussells _____

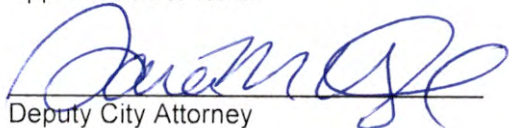
Mayor

Approved by:

City Manager

Approved as to form:

ATTEST:


Deputy City Attorney

City Clerk

Introduced:

Final Reading:

Attachment: R-2023-094 - CPAC adopt amended by-laws (8922 : Resolution No.: R-2023-094 - By-Laws of the Climate Protection Act

CPAC By-Laws Update



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Proposed Changes to By-Laws

Changes were drafted to bring the by-laws into compliance with City Council's new Boards and Commissions manual and include:

- Deletion of non-voting appointees.
- Deletion of advisory members.
- Adoption of City residency requirements.
- Increased number of appointees to eleven, the maximum number allowed on any board, commission or committee.
- Changed attendance requirements to the version approved in the handbook (two consecutive unexcused absences will be reported to City liaison; three consecutive unexcused absences will result in automatic termination.)



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Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update

Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee

December 12, 2023



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Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Refresher

- \$1 million EPA grant to fund reduction of greenhouse gases.
- Grant lead: Central Midlands Council of Governments.
- Regional grant consisting of the Columbia metropolitan statistical area (MSA) of Calhoun, Fairfield, Lexington, Kershaw, Richland and Saluda counties. The City of Columbia is the largest city in the MSA, and is the reason the MSA was chosen for this grant opportunity.
- Full-time program coordinator started December 1. Part-time intern from Benedict College is currently aboard as well.
- Robert Anderson and I are representing the City on the Advisory Committee and have been actively involved.
- The Regional Committee met in early December; each of the seven counties and four municipalities were represented. This group meets on a monthly basis.



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Dates of Interest

March 1, 2024: Simplified version of the Priority Climate Action Plan due

- Identified near-term action items to prepare for implementation grants.
- Can focus on specific sectors or greenhouse gas sources.
- Limited set of requirements that set foundation for informed decisions.
- May build on previous climate planning efforts.

April 1, 2024: Regional Implementation Grant application due

Mid-2025: Comprehensive Climate Action Plan due

- Includes GHG inventory, projections and reduction targets, and a larger list of measures that reduce GHG and reach targets.



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Possible Grant Project Ideas

- Regional waste-to-energy plant.
- Regional solar farm.
- Local government energy audits.
- EV chargers.
- EV fleet conversion studies.
- Conversion of fleets to natural gas.
- Non-reimbursable weatherization grants for existing building stock.
- Regional reduction of food waste and adoption of local composting programs.
- Smart Surface projects, a variety of different projects that can reduce the urban heat island affect and lessen the impact of flooding.

OTHER IDEAS?



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SUBJECT: **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update - Ms. Mary Pat Baldauf, Sustainability Facilitator**

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Attachment: CPRG UPDATE (8955 : Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update)

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