

## RESOLUTION NO. 2022-026

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT OF THE BROWARD COUNTY AUDIT OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION DIVISION, REPORT NO. 21-05, DATED DECEMBER 16, 2020; PROVIDING FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES BY THE ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION DIVISION WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING BETTER CARE FOR THE DOGS AND CATS MAINTAINED AT THE SHELTER; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Broward County Adoption Shelter is located at 2400 SW 42nd Street Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312 and is maintained and operated by Broward County through the Animal Care and Adoption Division for the purposes of providing care of dogs and cats;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners requested that an audit of the overall operation of the Broward County Shelter be undertaken by the Broward County Office of the County Auditor; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 16, 2020, the Office of the County Auditor issued its audit that among other things, the operation of the Shelter does not consistently adhere to best practices and laws, and that the programs and processes utilized at the Broward County Shelter are not operating effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the audit identifies that 78% of the calls from the public, the majority of which relate directly to interest in the animals, go unanswered; and

**WHEREAS**, the audit indicates that the Broward County Shelter is understaffed by 33% and needs to increase staffing by 30-36 full-time employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the audit identifies that the use of volunteers has been eliminated for months, and recommends that it be reinstated and efficiently administered; and

**WHEREAS**, the operation of the Shelter results in animals in interior kennels being left in the dark for 14-18 hours a day; and

**WHEREAS**, the current operation at the Shelter relative to animal confinement (kennels/cages) fails to meet industry standards, which requires a minimum of two feet of space between defecation, feeding and resting areas for felines and soft bedding for canines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Broward County Shelter does not meet "no-kill" guidelines established by Broward County and statistics for October 2020 show 115 animal deaths. 27 died "in care" and 88 were euthanized, often without following proper protocol for public outreach before being euthanized; and

**WHEREAS**, the audit indicates that basic medical care is lacking due to insufficient veterinary oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, the audit identifies that outdoor canine play areas go unutilized while dogs are kept in cages day after day; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches deems it in the best interest of the Town to express its support of the Broward County Audit of the Animal Care and Adoption Division dated December 16, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA THAT:**

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are true and correct and hereby ratified and confirmed by the Town Council. All exhibits attached hereto are hereby incorporated herein.

**SECTION 2.** The Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida hereby expresses its support of the Broward County Audit of the Animal Care and Adoption Division dated December 16, 2020; a copy of the Audit is attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

**SECTION 3.** The Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida expresses its concern that the Broward County Shelter, due to operational failures, fails to provide adequate care for dogs and cats and therefore the Town Council fully supports that all the recommendations contained in the audit be immediately implemented and adhered to by the Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Division.

**SECTION 4.** The appropriate Town officials are authorized and directed to execute the necessary documents to comply with this Resolution.

**SECTION 5.** All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION 6.** If any clause, section or other part of this Resolution shall be held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutional or invalid part shall be considered eliminated and will in no way affect the validity of the other provisions of this Resolution.

**SECTION 7.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest

Ranches, Florida, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021, on a motion by

V/m Jablonski and seconded by Elm Kuczenski.

Breitkreuz	<u>yes</u>
Jablonski	<u>yes</u>
Allbritton	<u>yes</u>
Hartmann	<u>yes</u>
Kuczenski	<u>yes</u>

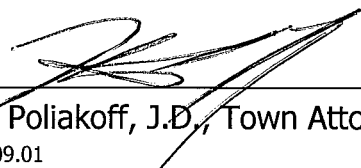
Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nays	<u>0</u>
Absent	<u>0</u>
Abstaining	<u>0</u>

  
Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

Attest:

  
Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:

  
Keith Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney  
1001.809.01