

From: djacob@wi.rr.com [<mailto:djacob@wi.rr.com>]

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 6:01 PM

To: Witkowski, Terry

Subject: RE: TRN Ordinance Review

Importance: High

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Public Safety Committee Members

RE: Ordinance relating to the Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR)
Pilot program for feral/stray/neighborhood cats

Dear Ald. Witkowski,

I am writing in support of continuing the current TNR ordinance that is up for review on March 19th. Although I think there are numerous ways to improve the current ordinance, if that is not possible to do at this time, I do support keeping the ordinance in its current form.

TNR is the only current humane, non-lethal method for controlling the over- population of free-roaming cats. Over the course of the past 50+ years, traditional trap and kill methods have proven ineffective in containing these numbers. That is due to a well-documented wildlife effect known as the “vacuum effect.” Here defined by the ASPCA: “vacuum effect”—either new cats flock to the vacated area to exploit whatever food source attracted the original inhabitants, or survivors breed and their descendants are more cautious around threats;

The only effective programs in the country that have proven records of reducing feral/free-roaming cat populations are the Trap-Neuter-Release ones. I will refer to programs I am personally familiar with:

- Best Friends Animal Society: Feral Cat Initiatives
- First Coast No More Homeless Pets
- Austin Pets Alive
- IndyFeral
- Feral Freedom
- Utah Humane Society
- NYC Feral Cat Initiative
- Tree House Chicago
- Ally Cat Allie’s is an amazing organization which assists the public in learning about TNR

Thank you for your time and consideration.