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Public Safety Committee
City Hall
200 E Wells St Ste 205
Milwaukee WI 53202

RE: Ordinance relating to a trap-neuter-release pilot program for feral cats.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to all of you in support of the feral cat ordinance. I think the ordinance should be revised to make the ordinance better for the caretakers and the community. Trap-neuter-release aka TNR is a humane, non-lethal alternative to the trap and kill method of controlling cat populations. It is a management technique in which homeless, free-roaming (community cats) are humanely trapped, sterilized by a licensed veterinarian, vaccinated against rabies and returned to their original habitat. TNR is a sustainable, long term solution. It is an option that takes time, but produces lasting results.

TNR has many benefits. The benefits are as follows:

- Reduces shelter admissions and operating costs, these results in significant cost savings for the city!
- Sterilizing community cats reduces or even eliminates the behaviors that can lead to nuisance complaints.
- Create safer communities and promote public health by reducing the number of unvaccinated cats.
- Keeping the cats in the area allows for continued rodent control, particularly important concern in flood areas.
- Will provide an increasingly better quality of life for feral and stray cats living outside, and will ultimately eliminate the homeless cat population.
- Promotes community involvement.

Spaying and neutering of animals is the only way to combat the problem of pet overpopulation and ensure that no animals have to be killed simply for the lack of a home. If we, the community do nothing, the problem still exists. TNR programs are proven to stabilize feral cat colony populations. It is important to note that feral cats cannot be safely adopted or placed in homes.

Feral cats are the offspring and subsequent generations of free-roaming pets and stray/abandoned animals that become wild due to human irresponsibility.

The quick pace of reproduction means this is an issue that cannot be ignored. A female cat can have her litter at 5 months of age! A female cat can have 3 cycles per year with 4-6 kittens per litter. This is not one person's problem, but it's the community as a whole problem. The community needs to be engaged in order for change so we can coexist with each other. I can appreciate the residents of the City of Milwaukee wanting to enjoy their property but how can you deter wildlife? Most feral cats do not want to interact with humans and try to stay out of sight.

Again, I would like to see the ordinance amended but I do support the ordinance. TNR has been proven successful in communities throughout the United States. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Heidi Blank