

10. Sec. 3.10 – Humane Society

Charter Review Committee

Amendment Summary

Section 3.10

Brief Summary of Amendment

Removes Section 3.10, which authorizes a contract with the Tacoma Humane Society or other similar animal control agencies, from the Charter.

Committee Vote

Yes: Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Andre Jimenez, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Steve Wamback, Diamatris Winston, Lok Yin Wu

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Amendment

Tacoma Humane Society

Section 3.10—The City Council is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with the Tacoma Humane Society, or any other agency or agencies performing similar duties and functions, granting to said society, agency, or agencies the control and operation of all city pounds and delegating certain duties and responsibilities with reference to the control of animals. Such contract(s) shall provide, among other things, that said society or agency (agencies) shall faithfully operate said pounds, shall pay all expenses in connection therewith, shall receive all licenses, fines, penalties and proceeds of every nature connected therewith, and such other sums as may be legally appropriate therefor, subject only to accounting as provided by law. The Council is further authorized, notwithstanding the provisions hereof, to determine that the City shall operate its own city pounds or detention facility and otherwise regulate and control animals within its corporate limits. Any contract entered into pursuant to the authority hereof shall be subject to cancellation by the City for good cause.

Amendment Positions

Rationale for Amendment:

The Charter Review Committee recommends removing Section 3.10, Tacoma Humane Society, in its entirety. As the primary governing document of the City, the charter should not name any private entity as a contractor of the City, thereby giving it preferential treatment over all other organizations. This recommendation is not passing judgement on the Humane Society, but rather implementing a principle of fairness into the Charter. This section was added in 1973, more than fifty years ago. Deleting Section 3.10 will not impact the Council's ability to contract for animal-control services from THS or any other legally qualified animal-control entity. See TMC 17.01.010.6, "Animal shelter means a facility operated by the Humane Society or another facility that contracts with the City to provide for the care of animals;" see also RCW 16.52.015, 16.52.020, 16.52.025.

Dissenting Position(s):

None