



**TO:** T.C. Broadnax, City Manager  
**FROM:** Andy Cherullo, Finance Director  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Title 17 Amendments – Animal License Fees  
**DATE:** November 1, 2016

**SUMMARY:**

The proposed budget for 2017/2018 includes a revenue enhancement that increases the City’s animal license fees requiring an amendment to Title17 in the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC).

**STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:**

The increased revenue of approximately \$200,000 in 2017/2018 will fund an additional Animal Control Officer that will allow expansion of animal control services from the current 5 days a week to 7 days a week. This will strengthen and support a safe city and provide Tacoma residents with additional access to animal control services when needed.

**BACKGROUND:**

All Tacoma residents who have cats and/or dogs are required to register their pet with the City. The Tax & License Division of the Finance Department works in coordination with the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society and the Tacoma Police Department for animal control and licensing services. The City’s animal license fees have not been increased since 2002.

**ISSUE:**

The 2017/2018 revenue enhancement increases the animal license fees in TMC Chapter 17.05.

Animal License Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Cat Spayed/Neutered	\$12	\$20
Cat Unaltered	\$55	\$65
Dog Spayed/Neutered	\$20	\$30
Dog Unaltered	\$55	\$65
Cat Unaltered - Senior	\$30	\$35
Dog Unaltered - Senior	\$30	\$35

The license fee for Senior Citizens who own a dog or cat that has been spayed or neutered will remain at the current \$5 annual fee. The effective date of the new fees is January 1, 2017.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The fees could remain at their current levels; however, there would be no additional funding to offset the costs of hiring an additional animal control officer. The proposed revenue enhancement included in the 2017/2018 budget requires the attached TMC amendments.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The proposed revenue enhancement included in the 2017/2018 budget requires the attached TMC amendments.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Over the next two years, the increased fees are estimated to generate approximately \$200,000 that will allow the Police Department to hire an additional Animal Control Officer, extending animal control services to 7 days a week. In addition, the City is exploring other service enhancements in partnership with Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society that would offer reduced spay/neuter costs to owners with unaltered pets or microchipping of animals.