



## City Council

### Approval of an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Subsection 6.04.060(A) Relating to Animal Cruelty

**Agenda Date:** 2/13/2023  
**Agenda Item Number:** 4.E  
**File Number:**23-0140

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**Type:** ordinance **Version:** 2 **Status:** Passed

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#### **Title**

Approval of an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Subsection 6.04.060(A) Relating to Animal Cruelty

#### **Recommended Action**

##### **Committee Recommendation:**

Not referred to a committee.

##### **City Manager Recommendation:**

Move to approve on second reading the Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Subsection 6.04.060(A) Relating to Animal Cruelty.

#### **Report**

##### **Issue:**

Whether to approve on second reading the Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Subsection 6.04.060(A) Relating to Animal Cruelty.

##### **Staff Contact:**

Mark Barber, City Attorney, 360.753.8338

##### **Presenter(s):**

Consent Calendar Item.

##### **Background and Analysis:**

Background and Analysis did not change from first to second reading.

Last year, the Joint Animal Services Commission (JASCOM) adopted a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2022-2026. Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan is to: "Expand and improve animal care and programming to support our community's pets and people." Within this goal, the Strategic Plan identifies the following strategy: "Review, identify, and recommend changes to local ordinances that impede or limit live-saving programs and services within Thurston County."

In alignment with this goal, JAS and JASCOM recommend updating language in the Olympia

Municipal Code (OMC) to support the prosecution of animal cruelty. Current language only allows for the prosecution of owners in regard to cruelty and fails to include language for a person who knowingly inflicts unnecessary suffering or pain upon an animal. This language closes that gap.

**Climate Analysis:**

The issue of animal cruelty has no impact on climate mitigation.

**Equity Analysis:**

The issue of animal cruelty has no impact on diversity, equity, or inclusion.

**Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):**

The community has an inherent interest in the prevention of animal cruelty.

**Options:**

1. Approve on second reading the Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Subsection 6.04.060(A) Relating to Animal Cruelty.
2. Approve the ordinance with Council-directed changes on second reading.
3. Do not approve the ordinance. The gap for the prosecution of only animal owners for the crime of animal cruelty will remain.

**Financial Impact:**

There is no financial impact related to this code amendment.

**Attachments:**

Ordinance