



**Summary
GreenPrint Committee**

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 11:00 am Location: Council Conference Room 391

Committee Members Present: Nevitt, Chair; Linkhart, Vice-Chair; Lehmann

Committee members Absent: Brown

Other Council Present: Madison, Robb

Agenda:

- 1) *Safe Skies Colorado announcement*
- 2) *Environmental Health Department's proposed revisions re: administrative citations, fines, fees*
- 3) *Greenhouse gas emissions footprint/inventory*
- 4) *Bill Bruce – animal control expert from Calgary, Alberta*

1. Safe Skies Colorado announcement

Committee Discussion

Councilmember Nevitt acknowledged Mayor Hickenlooper's proclamation – Safe Skies – that encouraged office buildings downtown to turn off unnecessary lights to conserve energy, but also to protect migrating birds flying through the City, and said he supported the request.

2. Follow-up: Environmental Health Department's proposed revisions re: administrative citations, fines, and fees

Committee Action

Committee members and other Council present permitted Environmental Health to file on consent the final recommendations for citations, fines, and fees once staff has completed meeting with all Councilmembers to obtain additional comments and suggestions.

Committee Discussion

Sherry Purdy, Environmental Health (DEH), reiterated that the proposed revisions would authorize the Board of Environmental Health to set fees for animal services and that the civil penalties process is intended to improve compliance and minimize repeat offenders. The proposed fines will unburden the court system, but will maintain citizen's due process, explained Ms. Purdy. A citizen survey and community outreach was conducted and the department evaluated fees compared to six local and six national jurisdictions and compared fines and court costs for animal code violations with seven local and four national jurisdictions. In addition, staff consulted with City Councilmembers, the Denver Dumb Friends League,

Denver Metro Shelter Alliance, and the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee. As a result of the additional outreach Environmental Health revised its original recommendations as follows:

- There will not be an increase to a first violation for dogs off-leash until after the Dog Park Master Plan is in place, it will remain at \$80;
- No increases in euthanasia rates; and
- A measurement predictability factor with a three-year time period for CPI adjustment to the fees was included.

Ms. Purdy explained that the agency decided not to raise fines until the Parks & Recreation agency completed their Dog Master Plan and until the final plan has been implemented and working. Jacky Berardini, City Attorney's Office, stated that fine and fee proposals will be presented to the Board of Environmental Health and would go through this board's rule-making processes, once the legislation is approved. She stressed that the details of the fees, citations, and fines will not be included in the final legislation to City Council, only the authorization of the board to make these decisions. Councilmember Nevitt said this proposal will provide opportunities for staff to create options for dog-off leash programs and said he has received support and opposition regarding fee increases and enforcement. Councilmember Robb said the initial problem is that animals need to be licensed first and questioned how many fines go uncollected because of lack of licensure. In conjunction with that, noted the Councilwoman, is the ability to enforce and write citations to non-licensed animals. She noted that if the City doesn't have enforcement capability for these things is it helpful to raise fines? Ms. Purdy said they have a collection rate of 38% and once the new changes are implemented it will be higher. Councilmember Linkhart said he didn't understand why cat fines were doubling and that licensing was not a priority for him. Councilmember Robb noted that licensing for animals is a public health issue. She noted that her constituents prefer that she address barking dog problems and have asked her for more police support, but the Councilwoman noted that law enforcement has to balance priorities and that police have more serious matters to address.

Councilmember Linkhart asked if adoption processes would be impacted. Doug Kelley, DEH, said the City's animal shelter does not maintain a specific time period for keep animals since it depends on other shelters availability to receive animals to their care. Ms. Purdy said DEH is committed to animal care and is focusing on vaccinations and cleaning protocols at the animal shelter.

Councilmember Nevitt indicated that this issue can move forward on consent with final changes after Environmental Health staff has met with all Councilmembers and barring no controversies as it moves forward. He stated that current fees do not cover the costs of the services provided by this agency and that the City needs to make choices about what programs it subsidizes. The Councilman asked those present to make their comments regarding consent for the proposals:

- Linkhart: He was not sure where he stood on the proposals and asked for additional information.
- Lehmann: She agrees with moving forward.
- Robb: She agreed to the concepts proposed and moving forward, but has issues with the relationship between enforcement and increasing fees.
- Madison: She agrees with moving forward.

3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Footprint/Inventory:

Committee Discussion

Gregg Thomas, Environmental Health, stated that Denver's base year (2005) for footprint per capita for greenhouse gas (GHG) was 25.2 mtCo2e/per person (3.2% decrease) or 14.6 million mtCo2e (1% decrease). He noted that commercial/industrial buildings account for 34% of greenhouse gas. Efficiencies per person did increase, but at the same time population increased by 2% and households increased by 3%. Overall, Denver is on track with decreasing its greenhouse gas emissions and meeting its GreenPrint goals. Councilmember Robb asked if there was a correlation between prices of gas to decreases in emissions and if the numbers of hot and cold days experienced have an impact on gas emissions. Alex Dismore, University of Colorado at Denver, said that Denver used the same level of energy in 2007 despite weather conditions and other sources of wind energy and cleaner electricity from Xcel in 2007 account for positive decreases in GHG emissions. He added that the area between the per capita inventory and per capita GHG footprint are goals for future mitigation. Community-wide the GHG footprint from 2005-2007 has decreased by 1%. Overall, GHG emissions can be impacted by year-to-year climate variability, variation in carbon content of electricity, and efficiency gains versus population increases per square foot. Councilmember Nevitt asked how and who Denver is benchmarked against. Mr. Thomas said cities and counties typically estimate their own emissions and from there Denver is benchmarked against federal and state levels. Currently, Denver's correlations are lower than both federal and state emissions levels. He added that this is the first time these types of studies have been conducted so there is a lot of room for enhanced monitoring and decreased emissions.

Mr. Thomas reiterated the Climate Action Plan Strategies and Goals and expected reductions as follows (see attachment):

- Corporate Climate Challenge – 342,000
- Residential Climate Challenge – 168,000
- Incentivized Energy Conservation – 550,000
- Voluntary Travel Offset Program – 360,000
- City Leading by Example – 173,000
- Enhanced Recycling – 36,000
- Efficiency for New Buildings & Remodels – 72,000
- Time-of-Sale Home Energy Upgrades – 36,000
- Community-wide Concrete Mandate – 54,000
- Compact Growth Boundary with Incentives for Urban Density – 36,000
- City Support for Alternative Transportation – 27,000
- Total annual GHG mitigation by 2012 = 1.8 million +

Councilmember Nevitt announced that tomorrow the Governor, Mayor, and DNC Host Committee will hold a press conference to report on the green legacy of the DNC which will include a DNC Greening Report and confirmation of Denver as hosting the "greenest political convention in history". The press conference will be at Civic Center Park at 10 a.m.

4) Bill Bruce – Director of Animal and ByLaw Services, City of Calgary, Alberta, Canada:

Committee Discussion

Councilmember Madison welcomed and introduced Mr. Bill Bruce from the City of Calgary, Alberta who took the leadership role at Animal and ByLaw Services in Calgary, Alberta in 2000. Mr. Bruce said that the City of Calgary encourages and enforces responsible pet ownership through licensing, public education, and enforcement. He said they moved away from “animal control” to “responsible pet ownership” vision and operate by the following four principles:

- License and provide permanent identification for your pets;
- Spay or neuter your pets;
- Provide training, care, and proper medical attention for your pets; and
- Don't allow pets to become a threat or a nuisance.

Mr. Bruce said they utilize educational resources and the media for getting the information out to the public, including working with students to build pet responsibility at an early age. He stressed that they operate with zero tolerance for non-compliance which includes a \$250 fine for unlicensed pet or not picking up dog waste. He reported that Calgary has seen a 20% reduction in dog bites in the past year and that all of his Animal Control Officers are certified mediators. Their fines are court directed and that they engage all stakeholders into enforcing the mission to build a process that works. Because Calgary has approximately 1000 acres of open space, they allow for dogs off-leash in regulated areas. With zero tolerance for non-licensed pets, the agency generates \$5.2 million into its budget from licensing fees. Currently, Calgary has 91% license compliance for dogs and 45% license compliance for cats. He noted that his budget revenue permits him to purchase field equipment for his staff and to operate a smell-free facility.

*Debra Bartleson
Legislative Services*