

Memorandum



DATE August 17, 2018
TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
SUBJECT **Animal Cruelty Investigations**

In a collaborative effort to reduce animal cruelty offenses and prosecute offenders in the City of Dallas, the Dallas Police Department (DPD) will be selecting two detectives to serve as animal cruelty investigators. These detectives will be responsible for follow-up investigations throughout the city on animal cruelty offenses. Individuals selected for these positions will have a passion for protecting animals and will work as a team in conjunction with the criminal investigator from the SPCA, Dallas Animal Services, animal advocacy groups, and the District Attorney's office. These investigators will receive specialized training in order to enhance their ability to investigate and present cases to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution. This higher level of service efficiency and accountability will enable the City of Dallas to more actively investigate cases involving animal fighting, animal cruelty and other forms of violence committed against animals.

In addition, changes are being implemented in both 911 and 311 to provide better service when calls are received involving possible animal cruelty. These changes outlined below will enable the city to better track reported instances of cruelty and abuse.

- When a call is received through 911 or 311 a new protocol of questions will be asked of the caller to obtain specific information beneficial to the follow-up investigation. A new specialized signal for animal cruelty has been created when the caller believes the animal's injuries were inflicted through violence.

While DPD hopes to implement these changes as quickly as possible, they are anticipated to take effect following the start of the new fiscal year (October 2018) once the necessary training and other procedural changes are complete. Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.



Jon Fortune
Assistant City Manager

cc: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Larry Casto, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Billie Rae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager

Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Chief of Community Services
Raquel Favela, Chief of Economic Development & Neighborhood Services
Theresa O'Donnell, Chief of Resilience
Directors and Assistant Directors