

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-O-

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE VII, SECTION 120, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING SUB-SECTION (d) TO ALLOW FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO OWE FEES TO LAREDO ANIMAL CARE SERVICES TO BE ABLE TO PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS AS A METHOD OF PAYMENT TOWARDS THE FEES OWED. COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS MUST BE PERFORMED AT THE LAREDO ANIMAL CARE SERVICES FACILITY; EVERY HOUR OF COMMUNITY SERVICE WILL HAVE A VALUE OF \$12.50.00; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that individuals may not have the ability to pay the fees required by the City in order to regain possession of their animal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo does not want financial hardship to be the reason causing an individual to lose custody and possession of a family pet; and

WHEREAS, the City of Laredo seeks to offer an alternative method of payment that would allow individuals who are indigent to be able to regain possession of an animal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1. The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article VII, Section 120 is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 6-120.- Waiver of fees

- (a) No fee may be charged for registration or a permit issued for any dog used by a person with disabilities who utilizes the dog as a service animal to aid the person in going from place to place within the city.
- (b) No fee may be charged for registration or a permit issued for any dog that is owned and used by any law enforcement agency for drug awareness, drug or bomb detection, or any other law enforcement purpose.
- (c) The City Manager shall have the authority to waive any or all fees under this chapter for special events or on a case by case basis upon a finding of special need.

(d) Any person who owes fees to the Laredo Animal Care Services Facility (LACS) may perform hours of community service as an alternative method to fulfill payment of the fees owed to LACS. Community service hours must be performed at LACS. The Department Director must approve of the hours prior to the hours being performed. Each hour of community service will have a value of \$12.50.00.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section 3. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS
_____ DAY OF _____ 2024.

DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO
MAYOR

ATTESTED:

JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.
CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**DOANH “ZONE” T. NGUYEN
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY**