




**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department**



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and Council  
FROM: David Lurie, Director   
DATE: May 12, 2010  
SUBJECT: Animal Services Leadership Transition

Dorinda Pulliam, Assistant Director for Animal Services, has expressed an interest in working on high level Departmental and City Corporate projects leading up to her planned retirement in January 2012. Therefore, she is being assigned to assist with special projects in other divisions within the department and other corporate level projects.

Dorinda started with the City in October of 1990. She became the Assistant Director for Animal Services with HHSD in November of 2000. Under her guidance, animal adoptions have increased from 14% to 22%, rescue group interventions have increased from 2% to 22%, and euthanasia rates of City sheltered animals have dropped from 61% in 1999 to 32% last year. She has also initiated implementation of the Council approved animal services recommendations and worked on the development plans for the new animal services center, due to open in the fall of 2011.

Effective immediately, leadership for Animal Services will be provided on an interim basis by Bruce Mills. Chief Mills is an experienced executive with the City of Austin. He will provide an excellent combination of leadership and management skills that will assure continuation of positive progress in Animal Services performance and will provide for a seamless transition.

We will work with Corporate HRD on the expedited recruitment of a permanent executive for this important City service. This will allow the successor to become familiar with Animal Services before the opening of the new center and continue to operationalize the approved Implementation Plan for reducing intake and increasing live outcomes.

Should you need more information, please contact my office at 972-5010.

C: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
H.G. (Bert) Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager  
Dorinda Pulliam, Assistant Director for Animal Services, HHSD