

Code Amendment – Chapter 6, Animals, Section 6-1 , Definitions**(O-04)****No budgetary impact.**

Commissioner Moore ore introduced the following ordinance on first reading:

ORDINANCE NO. C-08-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 6-1, DEFINITIONS, OF CHAPTER 6, ANIMALS, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, BY ADDING THE WORD GUARDIAN TO THE DEFINITION OF OWNER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Which ordinance was read by title only.

Kitty Kessler said that language has the power to alter perception, and perception frames the way we deal with others. The addition of one word could alter the way in which companion animals are perceived and treated. Society cannot suffer from such a small change, but it could improve. The use of the term “guardian” or “guardianship” is solely to influence the public towards responsible treatment of animals and does not change the legal rights or duties of animal owners. Being an animal guardian does not change the legal status of animals as property, but by changing the way people speak regarding their relationship with animals might change how they act towards them. The world is leaning towards compassion. Florida is not the only state to abandon cruel gestation crates for pigs. Chicago and California both banned foie gras. The purpose of the change is to promote compassion, respect and better care for the animals who give such unconditional love and loyalty while asking for nothing in return.

Ms. Kessler provided copies and read a letter of support from Karen Judge, Director of Abandoned Pet Rescue, which is attached to these minutes.

Roslyn Greenspan, resident of Fort Lauderdale, believed much about our society tells how we treat our animals, especially the domesticated animals. The Old Testament mandates that even on the Sabbath we must care for our domesticated animals. She supported Ms. Kessler’s request.

Mel Kessler read a letter of support from Carolyn Crane, Director of Education, Humane Society of Broward County, who also notes the ASPCA’s position also supports the use of the term, guardian. He urged support of the ordinance.

Amy Swayzee, resident of Fort Lauderdale, said she opposes the ordinance. The American Veterinary Medical Association, American Kennel Club, Cat Fanciers Association, American Federation of Adiculture, sp? Oregon Veterinary Association, Office of Los Angeles City Attorney, Responsible Pet Owners Alliance, and National Animals Interest Alliance all oppose pet guardian language in laws. Ownership gives one the right to choose whether their peters are spayed or neutered. Giving human legal rights to animals could clog the courts with frivolous lawsuits and make veterinary care so expensive that many animals would not receive care. It could limit the rights of the blind in owning seeing eye dogs. She felt people could still work toward shutting

down puppy mills and cruel animal research and save those animals, and prosecute animal abuse, but still call themselves owners. Guardianship implies equality. Ownership implies responsibilities. Americans need to be more responsible for their dogs, but not more equal to them. Labeling a bad owner a guardian would not make him treat their animals better. Strengthening and enforcing existing animal cruelty laws would also address individuals who treat their pets inhumanely. The terms, owner and guardian, have specific legal meanings. She urged the Commission to vote against this.

Roll call showed: YEAS: Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Commissioners Moore and Hutchinson.
NAYS: Commissioner Teel and Mayor Naugle.

**Code Amendment – Section 20-129(f) – Police and
Firefighters Retirement System – Cost of Living
Adjustments**

(O-05)

No Budgetary Impact.

Commissioner Moore introduced the following ordinance on First Reading:

ORDINANCE NO. C-08-17

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 20, DIVISION 3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, SECTION 20-129(f) RESPECTING THE POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM PROVIDING THAT NO COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS SHALL BE GRANTED, AUTHORIZED, PAID OR DISTRIBUTED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2008; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE RETROACTIVE TO JULY 15, 2007.

Which ordinance was read by title only. Roll call showed: YEAS: Commissioner Teel, Vice Mayor Rodstrom, Commissioner Hutchinson, and Mayor Naugle. NAYS: Commissioner Moore.

Advisory Board /Committee Appointments

(OB)

The City Clerk announced the appointees/reappointees who were the subjects of this resolution:

Cemeteries Board of Trustees	Larry Ott
Charter Review Board	Chris Fertig Greg Durden Judy Stern Ronald K. Wright Daniel W. Lewis
Community Services Board	James H. Currier
Historic Preservation Board	Rena W. Marie Harrison