

4-2-19

Mayor and Council,

Just this past week, Austin's City Council is back in the news for doing something AMAZING. They are re-committing to No Kill. And why not? Since Austin has gone No Kill, it has been on the national stage as one of the finest animal-friendly cities in the country and a recent study showed that the City has derived \$157 million in economic benefits since going No Kill. This from a recent news story:

Austin City Council voted unanimously in favor of a historic resolution to raise the minimum live release rate for the city to maintain No Kill status from 90 percent to 95 percent just 4 days ago on March 28.

"We are extremely grateful to Council Member Pool for initiating this, and Council Members Kitchen and Alter and Mayor Pro-Tem Garza for cosponsoring," Dr. Ellen Jefferson, Executive Director of Austin Pets Alive! said after the hearing.

The City Council voted on the original No Kill resolution in 2010, setting 90 percent as the minimum required save rate (also called a live release rate). The city of Austin surpassed the 90 percent goal in 2011, and its live release rate has risen steadily since then. Austin reached a 97.5 percent live release rate in 2018 thanks to the ongoing partnership between the city's municipal shelter, Austin Animal Center, and Austin Pets Alive!. This latest resolution is critical to preventing backwards movement and ensuring that Austin continues to innovate and progress in its No Kill journey, working to save every life possible and improve outcomes for homeless pets.

"There was incredible vision in 2010 when our city, just two years after improving an only 45 percent save rate, passed a 90 percent No Kill resolution," Dr. Jefferson continued. "That vision is being surpassed today by passing a 95 percent save rate and taking Austin to the top of the ladder of the national No Kill movement."

This resolution was proposed by Council Member Leslie Pool and co-sponsored by Mayor Pro-Tem Delia Garza, Council Member Ann Kitchen, and Council Member Alison Alter. It passed unanimously on Thursday.

It could be LBACS showing up in this kind of article a year from now, talking about how LBACS has become a leader in animal sheltering. It could be YOUR names that are congratulated for putting Long Beach on the map as a compassionate city. Want to talk about winning an ELECTION? People LOVE animals and they'll vote for people who **TRULY** stand up for them. Who on City Council here tonight **TRULY** cares about our city's animals? It's not too late to step up. The proof of how much our Council cares is in the number of animals that walk out of our shelter **ALIVE**.

If AUSTIN can do it, LONG BEACH can do it, too. Let's get an Ordinance on the books!