

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES BETWEEN FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AND CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS GEORGIA**

**THIS INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (“Agreement”)** is made and entered this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023, by and between the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia (“**City**”), a municipal corporation, and Fulton County, Georgia (“**County**”), a constitutionally created political subdivision of the State of Georgia, herein after collectively referred to as the “**Parties**”.

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Georgia Constitution, Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I, counties and cities are prohibited from exercising governmental authority within each other’s boundaries except by Intergovernmental Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to control rabies, investigate animal cruelty complaints, and investigate animal bites, operate an animal shelter and remove live or dead animals from within the corporate limits of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Fulton County Animal Services is to provide a humane environment for Fulton County’s homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County, Georgia in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism; and

**WHEREAS**, in partnership with the Fulton County Animal Services contractor, additional services are provided such as veterinary care for animals including spay/neuters, pet adoptions, pet reclaims, volunteer programs, foster home programs, rescue group coordination and other life-saving programs on a twenty-four hour per day basis; and

**WHEREAS**, Fulton County Animal Control Officers (ACOs) are authorized to issue citations for violations of the Rabies and Animal Control Ordinances including, but not limited to, Leash Law, Tethering violations, Cruelty to Animals, Special Permits, Animal License, Animal Bites, Dangerous or Vicious Animals, Nuisance, Abandonment, Rabies Violations, Running at Large, Commercial Guard and Security Dogs, Animals as Prizes and Cruelty to Elephants; and

**WHEREAS**, the County and the City desire to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for the County to respond to citizens’ requests for animal control services within the corporate limits of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City and the County entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement on or about July 1, 2014 as Fulton County Board of Commissioners Agenda Item #14-0641 (“Original Agreement”) and pursuant to authority of the City for the purpose of authorizing Fulton County to provide animal control services to the City, by way of a contract with an animal control services vendor; and

**WHEREAS** the term of the Current Agreement is set to expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, and the County and City desire to enter into a new Intergovernmental Agreement to maintain the same level of services for Five (5) year period commencing January 1, 2024 and the new terms (Articles) and conditions set forth herein; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the City and the County, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby agree as follows:

## **ARTICLE 1 PURPOSE AND INTENT**

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide the vital and necessary animal control services functions for the County's homeless pets while enforcing the animal control laws of Fulton County, Georgia in a manner that reflects quality and professionalism. The Parties agree that:

- 1.1 The County agrees to provide animal control services through a contract with an animal control services vendor within the corporate limits of the City. The purpose of such service shall be to enforce the Georgia Animal Control Act, all County ordinances attendant thereto, and all ordinances of the City related to animal control services.
- 1.2 The County agrees to provide a response to requests for animal control services within the City in accordance with the time periods specified in the County's contract with its approved animal control services vendor.
- 1.3 The County agrees to provide rabies control, investigate cruelty complaints and animal bites, operate an animal shelter and remove live or dead animals from within the corporate limits of the City upon request of the City and in accordance with the approved contract with the animal control services vendor.
- 1.4 The County agrees to provide the City courteous, efficient, and accessible Animal Control Services for emergencies, and non-emergencies for the term prescribed in this Agreement, consistent with the overall quality of services provided throughout the County.

## **ARTICLE 2 TERM OF AGREEMENT**

The term of this Agreement is for Twelve (12) months from January 1, 2024 at 0000 hours through and concluding at 2400 hours on December 31, 2024 with Four (4) automatic renewals commencing on January 1 of each successive year. This Agreement shall terminate at 2400 hours on December 31, 2028.

At the conclusion of the last term (2400 hours on December 31, 2028), the City will be solely responsible for providing all animal control services within City boundaries, unless extended by mutual agreement approved by both governing bodies. Any such change is subject to consideration and approval of the County Board of Commissioners and the governing body of the City.

The City and County do hereby agree that all the terms and conditions that are set out in



this Agreement are material and enforceable during the entire agreed period of this Agreement.

The parties agree that the City and the County may, at any time, upon Sixty (60) days' notice, terminate this Agreement.

### ARTICLE 3 COMPENSATION AND CONSIDERATION

The County has calculated the total program Annual Shared Costs as seen in Table 1. The payment amount for each jurisdiction will be based on its proportional monthly calls for service. The cost to the City will be based on classification and location of calls received by the animal control services vendor during the month of service. Each City will pay their percentage use of the total cost to operate the service based on the call information.

Table 1 – Shelter and Field Operations Services		
2024 Animal Services Contract Amount	\$	9,080,000
Annual Maintenance and Operations Cost	\$	1,625,840
Capital Repairs	\$	500,000
Animal Cruelty Investigation and Prosecution Unit	\$	287,000
Vehicle Replacement	\$	270,000
Animal Services Administrator	\$	177,000
Call Taking and Dispatch Services (24/7/365)	\$	164,000
2024 Annual Shared Costs	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,103,840</b>

The payment amount will be enforceable during the period of this agreement and all payments will be due within Sixty (60) days of the invoice date and should be sent to the following address:

Fulton County Animal Services  
Attn: Joseph Barasoain  
130 Peachtree Street SW  
Suite G-157  
Atlanta GA, 30303

Failure to remit payment to Fulton County within Sixty (60) days of the invoice date may result in the suspension of services to the City until such time as the payment is received or termination of the agreement.

For the Five (5) year Intergovernmental Agreement term with the City, a year-over-year increase in the total Annual Actual Shared Costs will be applied to maintain program services and will keep pace with the actual rate of inflation.

## **ARTICLE 4 ENFORCEMENT & SERVICE RESPONSE**

Animal Control Officer(s) (ACOs) will assist citizens and other public safety agencies who have requested help with domestic animal problems in a professional manner within their Area of Responsibility (AOR). ACO(s) shall respond to requests for services called in via the public or municipal partners and after these priority responses are met, the ACO(s) will patrol on a scheduled basis the area of designated responsibility.

ACO(s) will cite animal owners for violations of Fulton County Animal Control Ordinances, participate in the prosecution of such citations, and investigate and prepare reports regarding serious code violations.

The ACO(s) will impound stray dogs, and other animals that are subject to impoundment, and, when necessary, bring animals into the animal shelter under protective custody. All impounded animals will be held for a minimum of Seven (7) days unless reclaimed by their owner, transferred to rescue or adopted as provided in the Fulton County Animal Control Ordinance. The County will use all reasonable efforts to locate the owner of each animal prior to any disposition.

ACO(s) will also enforce the quarantine of animals that have bitten a person and enforce the regulations governing classified and/or dangerous animals, and inspect premises where animals are kept for sanitary conditions. ACO(s) will transfer any injured animals to the animal shelter, a veterinarian or ensure that the owner (if present) of the animal seeks medical treatment when necessary.

Animal Control Officers shall be dispatched so as to handle requests for service in a timely manner. Response to service requests shall be in the following priority:

- 1) Dog bites or animal attacks
- 2) Injured animals
- 3) Public Safety emergency calls
- 4) Quarantine violations
- 5) Cruelty to animals
- 6) Animals in custody
- 7) Loose animals
- 8) Animal welfare checks

The average response time to requests for service for priority 1, 2 and 3 shall be Forty-Five (45) minutes or less. "Response time" means that period of time between receipt of a service request by the selected vendor, and when an Animal Control Officer is dispatched and arrives at the location of the service request after being dispatched.

The average response time of all responses to priority 4 and 5 calls will be no greater than Four (4) hours. The average response time of all responses to priority 6, 7 and 8 calls will be no greater than Twenty-Four (24) hours.

At all times that there is not a regularly scheduled Animal Control Officer on duty, there shall be an on-call Animal Control Officer to respond to emergency priority 1, 2 and 3 calls.



Upon becoming aware of a possible violation, through requests for service, personal observation, analysis of records and data, or other method, ACOs shall conduct a thorough investigation. If after conducting a thorough investigation, the ACOs finds just and reasonable grounds to believe a violation was committed, then the appropriate citation and/or Notice of Violation shall be issued. Citations and/or Notices of Violation shall be issued consistent with Animal Control Ordinances and other applicable laws.

The ACOs will complete the thorough investigation of a possible violation within Seven (7) calendar days, unless a specific exception is documented in writing. The documentation shall state why the extension was needed and when the investigation was completed.

## **ARTICLE 5 TRANSITION**

In the event of the termination or expiration of this Agreement, the County and the City shall cooperate in good faith in order to effectuate a smooth and harmonious transition from County to the City to maintain the same high quality of services provided by this Agreement for the residents, businesses, and visitors of the City.

The County and the City agree that Ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of this Agreement, the City Administrator and County Manager (or his/her designee) will meet and confer to ensure a smooth transition.

## **ARTICLE 6 LIABILITY**

The City, as the requestor of said services, further agrees that the City shall be responsible for all costs and damages stemming from all claims, actions, damages, liability and expenses from third-parties resulting from actions of its employees, agents, and operators. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Agreement, the City's liability under this Agreement shall not include any claim arising from the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the County or its employees, agents or operators. Nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver of the County's sovereign immunity or any governmental immunity available to its officials, employees, or agents.

## **ARTICLE 7 TERMINATION AND REMEDIES**

The City or the County may terminate this Agreement only for an event of default.

If an event or default occurs, in the determination of the City, the City shall notify the County in writing; specify the basis for the default and advise the County that the default must be cured to the City's reasonable satisfaction within a Sixty (60) day period. The City may grant additional time to cure the default, as the City may deem appropriate, without waiver of any of the City's rights, so long as the County has commenced curing the default and is effectuating a cure with diligence and continuity during the Sixty (60) day period, or any longer period which the City prescribes.

If an event of default occurs, in the determination of the County, the County may notify the City in writing, specify the basis for the default and advise the City that the default must be cured to the County's reasonable satisfaction within a Sixty (60) day period; except that for events of default related to the payment of fees, the cure period is reduced to Thirty (30) days. The County may grant additional time to cure the default, as the County may deem appropriate, without waiver of any of the County's rights, so long as the City has commenced curing the default and is effectuating a cure with diligence and continuity during the Sixty (60) day period (30 days for payments) or any longer period which the County prescribes.

In the event that either party breaches a material term or condition of this Agreement, other than an event of default, the party in breach, upon receipt of a written request from the non-breaching party, shall remedy the breach within Thirty (30) days of receipt of the request. If the breach is not cured within the specified time period, the non-breaching party may utilize the remedies of declaratory judgment, specific performance, mandamus, or injunctive relief to compel the breaching party to remedy the breach.

The parties reserve all available remedies afforded by law to enforce any term or condition of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 8 AMENDMENTS**

This Agreement may be modified at any time during the term only by mutual written consent of both parties.

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## **ARTICLE 9 NOTICES**

All required notices shall be given by first class mail, except that any notice of termination shall be mailed via U.S. Mail, return receipt requested or by standard overnight carrier with tracking or signature required. Notices shall be addressed to the parties at the following addresses:

If to the County:

Richard "Dick" Anderson, County Manager  
141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 1000  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303 404-612-8335  
404-612-0350 (facsimile)

With a copy to:  
Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney  
141 Pryor Street, SW, Suite 4038  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
404-612-0246  
404-730-6324 (facsimile)

If to the City:

Eden E. Freeman, City Manager/Administrator  
1 Galambos Way  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328  
770-730-5600

With a copy to:

Dan Lee, City Attorney  
1 Galambos Way  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328  
770-730-5600

**ARTICLE 10  
NON- ASSIGNABILITY**

Neither party shall assign any of the obligations or benefits of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 11  
ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

The parties acknowledge, one to the other, that the terms of this Agreement constitute the entire understanding and agreement of the parties regarding the subject matter of the Agreement. Notwithstanding anything contained in this IGA, the obligation of the County and the City to make payments provided under this IGA shall be subject to approval and the annual appropriations of funds thereof by the governing body of the County and the City, and such obligation shall not constitute a pledge of the full faith and credit of the County or the City within the meaning of any constitutional debt limitation.

**ARTICLE 12  
GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE**

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia. The obligations of the Parties to this Agreement are performable in Fulton County, Georgia and, if legal action is necessary to enforce the same, the parties agree exclusive venue shall lie in Fulton County, Georgia.

**ARTICLE 13  
SEVERABILITY**

If a court of competent jurisdiction renders any provision of this Agreement (or portion of a provision) to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, that provision or portion of the provision will be severed and the remainder of this Agreement will continue in full force and effects as if the invalid provision or portion of the provision were not part of this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 14**



**BINDING EFFECT**

This Agreement shall insure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, the respective parties' successors.

**ARTICLE 15  
COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original, and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties, and no modification shall be binding upon the Parties unless evidenced by a subsequent written agreement signed by the County acting by and through the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, and the City, signed by its duly authorized officers acting by and through the City.

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**(SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)**

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and year first above written.

**SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA**


  
Rusty Paul  
Mayor

Attest:


  
Raquel Gonzalez  
City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Dan Lee  
City Attorney

**FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA**


  
Robert L. Pitts, Chairman  
Fulton County Board of Commissioners


ATTEST:

  
Tonya L. Grier, Clerk  
Fulton County Board of Commissioners



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Y. Soo Jo  
County Attorney

  
Joseph Barasoain  
Fulton County Emergency  
Management