

RESOLUTION NO. 17-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING FLORIDA HOUSE BILL 871 TO CREATE AN
ANIMAL ABUSER REGISTRY; PROVIDING FOR
TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Cutler Bay (the “Town”) desires to express its support of Florida House Bill 871 (the “Bill”) establishing an animal abuser registry; and

WHEREAS, Florida House Representatives Blaise Ingoglia (R-Spring Hill), Jared Moskowitz (D-Coral Springs), Jason Fischer (R-Jacksonville), Joseph Geller (D-Aventura), Ralph Massullo (D-Lecanto), and David Richardson (D-Miami Beach) have jointly filed the Bill to prevent animals from being sold to or adopted by individuals who have been convicted of specified animal abuse; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bill would create a publicly accessible animal abuser registry, maintained by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, listing those individuals convicted of felony crimes relating to animal abuse; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Bill would require pet dealers, including animal shelters and humane organizations, to verify that a prospective purchaser is not on the animal abuser registry list before selling or delivering an animal to a prospective purchaser; and

WHEREAS, creating an animal abuser registry enhances protection for potential animal and human victims by warning members of the community of such abusers; and

WHEREAS, the link between violence against animals and violence against human beings is well documented as individuals who mistreat, abuse, or kill domestic animals often extend that behavior to humans in the form of domestic violence and child abuse; and

WHEREAS, according to nationallinkcoalition.org, domestic violence and child abusers may kill, harm or threaten animals to exert dominance and power over their victims; and

WHEREAS, nationallinkcoalition.org also links animal abuse to violent crimes, domestic violence, elder abuse and child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, according to the Society & Animals, seventy percent (70%) of animal abusers had criminal records including crimes of violence, property, drugs, or disorderly behavior; and

WHEREAS, animal neglect, abuse, cruelty, fighting and hoarding promote desensitization to violence, damage a child’s development, foster the idea that victims are expendable, lead to the imitation of abusive behaviors, and lead to acceptance of physical harm in supposedly loving relationships; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council deems it to be in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the Town to support the Bill establishing an animal abuser registry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. **Support.** The Town Council hereby expresses its support of House Bill 871 attached hereto as Exhibit "A," establishing an Animal Abuser Registry.

Section 3. **Transmittal by Clerk.** The Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit this Resolution to the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.

Section 4. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of March, 2017.

Attest:

PEGGY R. BELL
Mayor

DEBRA E. EASTMAN, MMC
Interim Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE
SOLE USE OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY:

WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN
COLE & BIERMAN, P.L.
Town Attorney

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Mayor Peggy R. Bell _____

Vice Mayor Sue Ellen Loyzelle _____

Council Member Mary Ann Mixon _____

Council Member Michael P. Callahan _____

Council Member Roger Coriat _____