



# CITY OF HOUSTON

## PRESS RELEASE

Office of Council Member Robert Gallegos

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2014

#### CONTACT:

Daniel Santamaria  
832-393-3011 (o)

### COUNCILMAN GALLEGOS SUPPORTS BARC BUDGET INCREASE

The City of Houston's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care (BARC), a division of the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department, has proposed a \$2.9 million increase to its Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2014. Council Member Robert Gallegos released the following statement regarding BARC's proposal:

"I strongly support the proposed BARC budget increase which includes the addition of 12 new animal control officers and 6 new vehicles to increase animal enforcement operations and better address the dangers stray dogs pose to residents. In addition, BARC has proposed increased pet placement programs and pet ownership education.

"The city has had a stray animal problem for many years in part due to BARC being understaffed and underfunded, a lack of comprehensive spay/neuter strategy and limited educational campaign on responsible pet ownership. In January, loose dogs mauled a woman to death, and there have been a number of vicious dog attacks and dog bites reported since that time.

BARC receives approximately 50,000 calls for service each year. Its current budget allows for only six animal control officers on the street at a time that can respond to 25 percent of calls. With the increase, BARC will be able to respond to approximately 40 percent of calls for service."

City council could vote on the FY15 city budget as soon as June 11, 2014.

###