



SYLVESTER TURNER
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

September 29, 2020

Dear Sunset Commission:

The City of Houston is writing in support of the Texas Licensed Breeders Program (TLBP). The City of Houston opposes the current Sunset Commission staff recommendation to abolish this important program.

Since it was enacted in 2011, the TLBP has acted as a safeguard against cruelty toward dogs and cats across Texas, and in many instances has successfully stopped the cycle of cruelty before it starts. The City's animal enforcement personnel daily see the consequences of animal cruelty; therefore, the City recognizes the need for the state to regulate and certify large scale breeders. We are requesting that the Sunset Commission continue the TLBP but recommend the following change to improve the effectiveness of the program even further:

Remove the threshold of "selling over 20 puppies or kittens" to be considered a "breeder." Many breeders operate with unrecorded and untraceable cash transactions, making this minimum threshold meaningless.

Texas animals do not deserve to be abused in poorly run commercial breeding facilities. Please allow the Texas Licensed Breeders Program to continue with the change recommended.

My staff and I are available should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner".

Sylvester Turner
Mayor