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For Immediate Release

ANIMAL ADVOCATES PRAISE CITY OF STAFFORD FOR PROTECTING COMMUNITY CATS.

City of Stafford, Texas, January 25th, 2017 – Fort Bend Pet Alive!, along with animal advocates commends the City of Stafford for its compassionate leadership and offers help to spearhead Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to save lives of community cats.

A long time Stafford resident Ms. Janet Starr expresses her deep appreciation of the Mayor's Workshop meeting on November 21st, 2016. Ms. Starr supports the solid business approach chosen by the Mayor to discuss how to make "the odds and ends" meet between shortcomings and mandates of the new ordinance, advice from the animal advocates and the logistics that should be implemented by the city staff, the Police Department in particular. She is disinterested in Pro Tem Mayor Willis' repeated request of a list of humane organizations to "outsource" the responsibility to take care of the Stafford animals "without anymore obligation of the city". She also points out that it is not a "viable solution". Instead, there needs to be more communication and efforts put forth to lead to a business plan, better business practices and standard operation procedures to be in place to improve outcomes. She sees this issue as important as economic development and school improvement in the city. She reminds the city to strive to make it possible for City of Stafford to manage its own animal shelter in the future.

Claudine Vass, President of Fort Bend Pets Alive!, Salise Shuttlesworth, J.D., Executive Director of Friends for Life, (a LEED certified No Kill Shelter in the Houston Heights) and Brigitte Turner, former animal shelter supervisor of the City of Rosenberg stand strong and unified to offer the much needed logistics, free resources and possible funding to help City of Stafford to spearhead such a meaningful community project to make City of Stafford a more compassionate and better place for all. Ms. Shuttlesworth speaks to City of Stafford about life saving data and benefits of the three year old public/private TNR partnership Friends for Life has with the City of Houston. Ms. Shuttlesworth reiterated the protocols of TNR step by step in front of the council again. The steps are colony counting, block walking, trapping, transport, surgery, recovery and return to the environment. Animal advocates further emphasize the importance of self-sustainability of life saving programs and operations of the animal shelter in the future.

Mayor Scarcella values public input and involvement. In his State of the City speech in the beginning of the meeting and in a response to the animal advocates during the Public Comment portion, he emphasizes his desire to see citizens coming together and getting actively involved to make something great happen for the City of Stafford. Mayor Scarcella values "an aggressive no-kill provision bolstered in a trap, neuter and return policy, for feral cats" which requires a tremendous amount of support from the residents of Stafford.

Advocates conclude their speeches by not only offering commitment to the City of Stafford, they deliberate compliments and appreciation of the open mindedness displayed by the council. Ms. Turner stated that the Mayor and the Council have demonstrated "willingness to learn more about no-kill," they have "invited the help of FBPA! and they have also facilitated opportunities for open face-to-face dialog". Animal advocates commend City of Stafford on "the progress, effort, and care you [Stafford] have invested in making plans for the future Stafford animal shelter". They also respect the exceptional forward thinking displayed by the city officials. Animal advocates are very optimistic that the city of Stafford has the potential to serve as a role model and lead the way in becoming the first no-kill city in our region.

Other municipalities in our region are encouraged to follow the footsteps of City of Stafford.

About Fort Bend County Pets Alive!

FORT BEND PETS ALIVE! is a non-profit, 501(C)3 organization, dedicated to helping make Fort Bend a no kill community through promoting programs such as adoptions, education and community outreach, low cost spay and neuter surgeries, fostering, Positive Alternatives to Shelter Surrender (PASS), and rescuing from euthanasia list. Fort Bend Pets Alive! relies on donations. Please contact claudinevass@fortbendpetsalive.org to donate, or volunteer.

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