

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 22, 2024

PREPARED BY: Chris Gerry, Senior Project Manager

REQUEST: RESOLUTION APPROVING AN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY REGARDING
THE USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING AN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS."

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The City of Palm Desert (City) adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by ensuring equitable access for individuals with disabilities, including those accompanied by service animals. The City Council is requested to adopt the proposed resolution approving an administrative policy that outlines guidelines for the use of service animals in City facilities and programs.

Under ADA regulations, public entities must permit service animals in public areas, even if local health codes prohibit animals. Individuals with disabilities accompanied by service animals must not face isolation, unfair treatment, or fees that do not apply to other patrons.

Service animals, as defined in Title II and Title III of the ADA, are specially trained dogs that perform tasks for individuals with disabilities, such as guiding the blind or alerting the deaf. They are not pets but working animals essential to their handler's disability-related tasks. The policy also includes provisions for miniature horses that are trained to assist individuals with disabilities, requiring reasonable accommodation based on factors like training, control, and facility safety.

This administrative policy aligns with federal regulations and reinforces the City's commitment to accessibility and inclusion. Therefore, staff recommends the City Council adopt the resolution and approve the policy.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no direct financial impact associated with this action.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Resolution
- 1a. Administrative Policy (ADA-002)