

## STAFF REPORT

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**Date:** October 11, 2017

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**Thru:** Sabra Newby, City Manager

**Subject:** H.3. Staff Report (For Possible Action): Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution donating Reno Access Advisory Committee funds to Shakespeare Animal Fund to provide scholarships for disabled persons with sick or injured pets needing veterinary care in the amount of \$2,000. (General Fund)

**From:** April Wolfe, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist

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**Summary:** Shakespeare Animal Fund is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and provides financial assistance to pet owners in need. Staff recommends Council approve the donation of \$2,000 to Shakespeare Animal Fund to provide scholarships for disabled persons with sick or injured pets who need veterinary care but can't afford medical help for their animals without support.

**Background:** Shakespeare Animal Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, submitted a funding request to the City of Reno Access Advisory Committee (RAAC) at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 22, 2017. At this meeting the RAAC unanimously recommended Council approval to donate \$2,000 to Shakespeare Animal Fund to provide scholarships for disabled persons with sick or injured pets who need veterinary care but can't afford medical help for their animals without support.

**Discussion:** The Shakespeare Animal Fund (SAF) is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that was founded in January 2004 by Jennifer Webb of Reno. She named the organization after Shakespeare, her cocker spaniel who died after a long and costly illness. Ms. Webb founded SAF to spare deserving pet owners from going through a similar emotional upheaval when their pets are sick or injured.

Over the years the SAF has raised more than \$500,000 to help pay emergency veterinary bills for the elderly, disabled, veterans, and others who have no funds to get needed medical treatment for their suffering or dying animals. Often these pet owners see their pets as “family” and will do anything—including doing without food and medicine themselves—to try to save a suffering cat or dog.

Funds requested from RAAC will go directly towards scholarships for disabled persons with sick or injured pets who need veterinary care but can't afford medical help for their animals without support.

**Financial Implications:** The RAAC has sufficient funds to donate \$2,000 to Shakespeare Animal Fund for Fiscal Year 17/18. (General Fund)

**Legal Implications:** NRS 268.028(1) and (3) state the governing body or its authorized representative may make donations by resolution to nonprofit organizations created for religious, charitable or educational purposes, to be used for any purpose which will provide a substantial benefit to the inhabitants of the city. The statute also permits the imposition of conditions on the donation.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends Council adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ donating Reno Access Advisory Committee funds to Shakespeare Animal Fund to provide scholarships for disabled persons with sick or injured pets needing veterinary care in the amount of \$2,000. (General Fund).

**Proposed Motion:** I move to approve the staff recommendation.



**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Reno approves the donation of the sum of \$2,000 to Shakespeare Animal Fund to provide scholarships for disabled persons with sick or injured pets who need veterinary care but can't afford medical help for their animals without support;

Upon motion by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017, by the following vote of the Council:

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_  
ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
HILLARY SCHIEVE  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK