CITY OF VINELAND, N.J.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-80

ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 92-83, AS AMENDED,
CHAPTER 62, SO AS TO CREATE A NEW ARTICLE XIV
ENTITLED VINELAND MUNICIPAL ANIMAL SERVICES

New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16b) requires municipalities to appoint a certified Animal Control Officer (ACO) and ensure that stray, unregistered, sick, injured, potentially rabid, or dangerous animals are properly impounded at a licensed animal shelter, pound, or kennel. Historically, Vineland relied on South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter, now operating as Associated Humane Societies South (AHS), for the required sheltering services. AHS refused to negotiate a mutually acceptable service agreement, instead requiring the City to sign its proposed contract or risk losing access to sheltering services and refused to accept certain animals legally impounded by Vineland's ACOs, creating difficulties in fulfilling the City's statutory responsibilities and protecting public health and safety.

In response, the City's Health Officer and Department of Health recommended establishing municipal animal services to ensure compliance with state law and provide the City with greater control over animal intake, impoundment, and related services. State law and Vineland's Municipal Code authorize the City to establish and regulate its own animal pound and provide services including animal intake and holding, adoption, transfers to rescue organizations or foster homes, euthanasia, sterilization, and other animal-related services. If adopted, this Ordinance shall establish the City of Vineland Municipal Animal Services within the Department of Health to provide municipal control over animal impoundment and related services, ensure compliance with New Jersey law, and promote the humane treatment of animals while protecting public health, safety, and welfare.

The above ordinance was introduced and passed on its first reading at a meeting of the Council of the City of Vineland conducted on October 27, 2026 and is scheduled for a second reading, public hearing, and adoption at a meeting of said Council scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., prevailing time, in City Council Chambers, City Hall, Seventh & Wood Streets, Vineland, NJ.

This ordinance is posted on the official bulletin board on the ground floor lobby of City Hall and full copies may be obtained by anyone without cost from the office of the Municipal Clerk, or by visiting the City's website, www.vinelandcity.org, under "City Council," "Current Council Meeting Agenda."

RICHARD G. FRANCHETTA, EJD, RMC, CPM
CITY CLERK