



We Are Columbia

**MEETING DATE:** October 18, 2016

**DEPARTMENT:** Assistant City Manager for Operations

**FROM:** *Missy Gentry, Assistant City Manager*

**SUBJECT:** **Animal Shelter Update – Ms. Marli C. Drum, Animal Services Superintendent**

**PRESENTER:** **Marli C. Drum, Superintendent, Animal Services**

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** N/A

Animal Services continues to make positive gains in its effort to help our community become a “No-Kill Community”. In August of 2015, the Blue Ribbon Committee was formed and began a community effort to discuss ways we could all contribute to save more lives and prevent adoptable, healthy animals from being euthanized each year in our shelter. Many positive ideas and programs were discussed and some are already being implemented.

To further those efforts and to get an even broader perspective on our needs, we contacted Target Zero, a national nonprofit organization that specializes in helping communities reach their goals in life saving efforts, to do a full shelter assessment. We were encouraged by their findings because we learned we were already taking the right steps to achieve our goals. We were delighted to be invited to sign on with Target Zero for a three year fellowship to continue receiving their guidance to reach our goal of becoming a “No-Kill Community”.

Target Zero is completely funded by a foundation and their services to us are free. Their team consists of individuals from the animal care and control field (one being a veterinarian) who have faced the same challenges we do first hand. They were instrumental in building lifesaving programs in their own communities. Their goal now is to help communities nationwide build similar programs. After a three day assessment, Target Zero provided us with a comprehensive report and we feel their recommendations will assist us in achieving our goals.

We look forward to presenting some of these recommendations to the work session on October 18, 2016.