

City Plans to Move the Animal Shelter from Town Lake – Tell them NO!

The City of Austin plans to move the Town Lake Animal Shelter from its current highly visible central location on Caesar Chavez to the City's eastern edge – ***out of sight and out of mind***. We already have a great location and there is no reason to relocate the shelter.

Location, Location, Location -- We already have it!

- Locating a shelter in a highly visible location rather than at a remote location can literally double shelter adoptions.
- The proposed new site is far and away from the City's main adopters, which is certain to lead to fewer visitors, fewer volunteers, fewer adoptions, even more killing and higher operating costs.
- We already have a great location and there is no reason to move the shelter.

No Meaningful Due Diligence or Public Input

- No analyses was done regarding the move's impact on adoptions (most adoptors are West of 35), volunteers (many of whom are UT students) and return to owners.
- Management and staff assured citizens that there would be an opportunity for public input, but now the City now says, the location was decided with approval of the bond. **THE BOND BALLOT NEVER ADDRESSED LOCATION, VOTERS ONLY APPROVED \$12,000,000 to construct, renovate and improve the animal shelter.**

No Confidence in Current Shelter Management

- Current shelter management has been in place since 2000 and has been unable to reduce the kill and intake rates (**despite doubling the budget**).
- Last year over, 12,000 homeless animals were killed.
- Each and every year, since 2000 the City killed on average 12,000 homeless pets.
- Since 2000, under the current shelter management, more than 70,000 animals have been killed.

Rebuilding at Town Lake is Feasible

- City's own calculations to rebuild at Town Lake, including cost for flood abatement, would only cost \$200,000 more than relocating to new location.
- Many important public buildings are in a floodplain– Austin High, City Hall.

Most Homeless Animals do not come from East of 35

- Contrary to City's repeated claims, most homeless animals do not come from East of 35. The Southwest Austin zip code of 78745 produced the most sheltered pets.
- The highest concentrations of sheltered pets lie in Southwest and South Austin, not East Austin.

Redevelopment of Town Lake Site?

- Feb 8, 2007 news story reported that City leaders said the Town Lake site will be available for development in a few years for the federal court house.

Programs Should Have Been Conducted at Town Lake

- The City now says it want to take advantage of the park like setting at the new site with new programs, but the City has never implemented any programs taking advantage of the hike and bike trail.
- In Cities that have successfully reduced their kill rates, the public shelter conducts offsite adoption programs and foster programs of its own ***along with and in addition to*** the programs conducted by private rescue groups.
- Our shelter has had no offsite adoption program of its own, but now says it will once the shelter is moved. This program should have been ongoing already!
- Our shelter has no large scale foster program of its own, but now says it will once the shelter is moved. This program should have been ongoing already!

Call or email each Council Member and tell them to use the voter-approved bond money to rebuild the animal shelter at Town Lake!

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