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BOOK: R2247 PAGE: 01942
MAY 03 1999 04:12 PM
DAVE LANG, CLERK OF COURTS

BK: R2247 PG: 01942

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO: 99-04

FILED

IN RE: DIVERSION OF DIVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL CASES TO MEDIATION

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Justice Center has been approved by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court to operate as a citizens dispute settlement center in accordance with Section 44 201, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Justice Center has a group of volunteer mediators who have been certified by the Florida Supreme Court as county court mediators, and

WHEREAS, the Leon County Division of Animal Control recognizes the need to divert certain categories of animal control cases that involve two or more citizens,

WHEREAS, Section 4-41 of the Leon County Code states that persons cited for violation of the animal control code shall be deemed to be charged with a civil infraction and cited to appear in county court, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Leon County judges to divert appropriate animal control cases to mediation,

It is **THEREFORE,**

ORDERED that

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LEON COUNTY
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1 The Leon County Neighborhood Justice Center is hereby charged with the responsibility of mediating appropriate animal control cases that are referred to the center for mediation

2 Personnel of the Leon County Division of Animal Control shall have the discretion to refer animal control cases to the Neighborhood Justice Center for mediation The following categories of cases are deemed to be appropriate for referral

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A Barking and noisy animals

B Loose animal cases

C Nuisance cases

D. Certain dangerous or aggressive animal cases

E Contested citations which involve two or more parties

3 Parties referred to the Neighborhood Justice Center must demonstrate a good faith effort to resolve the dispute in question Cases shall not be docketed on the court's calendar without a "Notice of Impasse" from the Neighborhood Justice Center Upon receipt of a "Notice of Impasse" the clerk of the court shall set the case on the court's calendar

4 A procedure shall be jointly developed by the Neighborhood Justice Center and the Leon County Division of Animal Control to establish the process to refer cases to the Neighborhood Justice Center for mediation The procedure shall also be devised to provide information to the Leon County Division of Animal Control on the outcome of the mediation or attempts to initiate a mediation session

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5. The Director of the Neighborhood Justice Center shall prepare, on a quarterly basis, a report summarizing the number of cases diverted to the Neighborhood Justice Center for mediation, the number of cases mediated, and the number of cases in which settlement is reached

Done and Ordered in Chambers at Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida, this 29 day of April, 1999.

DONALD S. MODESITT
LEON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

GEORGE S REYNOLDS III
CHIEF JUDGE

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