

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

September 28, 2026

RE: Alley Cat Allies Urges Repeal of Ordinance 26-07

Dear Mayor Corbitt and Members of the White House City Board of Aldermen,

Alley Cat Allies is reaching out to express our strong opposition to and critical request to repeal Ordinance 26-07, which revises § 10-101 of the city code to include cats in the "running at large" provision. Specifically, this ordinance prohibits cats from roaming properties within corporate limits. We are aware the city is persistent that this decision will not impact community cats, or unowned cats who live outdoors, yet the language does not explicitly exempt them. As written, Ordinance 26-07 is incompatible with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and community cats. And so, we urge the board to repeal this ordinance.

Alley Cat Allies is the leader of the global movement to protect and improve the lives of cats. As the leading advocacy organization for cats, we work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public toward humane, nonlethal, and effective laws and policies that serve the best interests of cats and the communities in which they live. We offer the opportunity to provide our expertise and resources to the City of White House.

Ordinance 26-07 is Contradictory to TNR and Community Cats

Community cats are unowned and generally not social to people. They are also territorial and strongly bonded to their outdoor surroundings, which may include locations on public property. Returning to, keeping, and supporting cats in their original outdoor homes is a crucial step of TNR.

With this ordinance implemented, Alley Cat Allies has serious concerns regarding the fate of the community cats living on public property. Community cats who have established homes in these described areas should not be ignored or relocated.

Repeal Ordinance 26-07

Laws requiring community cats to be restricted to specific, private properties are unreasonable, ineffective, impossible to enforce, and incompatible with TNR. Ordinance 26-07 will not make the cats in White House disappear. Instead, it will discourage well-intended citizens from improving their community by caring for cats and participating in TNR because they fear legal consequences.

The city should support TNR without restrictions that hinder the engagement of the community to help cats. We are happy to provide more information or guidance, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Maggie Slezak, *Research and Community Change Manager*
Alley Cat Allies