Alley Cat Allies

November 12, 2026

The Honorable Mayor and Members of the Tempe City Council
City of Tempe
31 E 5th St.
Tempe, AZ

Dear Mayor Woods and Tempe City Council Members,

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies, I am writing to commend the City of Tempe for its commitment to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the only humane and effective approach to community cats. The TNR program, operated primarily by the Tempe Office of Animal Welfare (OAW), serves as an example of the lifesaving power of city-supported access to care for community cats and their caregivers. Many of your constituents rely on the support of the program to protect the cats they love.

Alley Cat Allies is the leading advocacy organization with a mission to protect and improve the lives of all cats and kittens. Since our founding in 1990, we have worked in cities and counties large and small to develop humane, evidence-based policies and programs that serve the best interests of cats and the communities in which they live.

Earlier this year, while researching laws and policies impacting cats in the United States, I was pleasantly surprised to learn how Arizona stands out from the rest of the country. Specifically, cats are regarded as part of the state's ecosystem and have protections under state and local law. A humane community peacefully coexists with the cats who call it home, and Arizona is leading the way in many respects.

A critical element of coexistence is embracing community cats by supporting TNR. For the past few years, Tempe's TNR program has done that and more, with over 6,000 community cats benefiting to date. The OAW turns the city's policy to protect cats into action, organizing a strong network of volunteers and veterinary partners to support, educate, and empower community cat caregivers across Tempe. There is much that other jurisdictions can learn from Tempe's approach to humane cat care.

Alley Cat Allies has already taken significant action for cats in the City of Tempe and with the OAW, including TNR, education, and outreach. Furthermore, we are taking steps in the state toward even greater change in the name of coexisting with cats. We are invested in the continuance of your thriving TNR program, and we look forward to working together to expand your impact.

Respectfully,
Daniel López

Daniel López
Director of Cruelty Prevention and Justice
Alley Cat Allies