

RESOLUTION NO. 842

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROTECTION AND
MANAGEMENT OF BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOGS.

WHEREAS, the City of Boulder, Colorado, recognizes that the black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) is a vital and important species to the grasslands of the Boulder Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boulder values prairie dogs as a vital element in grassland ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, black-tailed prairie dog populations are declining throughout their range due to the rapid loss of grassland habitat and are, therefore, a species of local concern; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boulder is committed to the protection of prairie dogs and their habitat within the Boulder Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City's goal is to effectively eliminate any need for poisoning or extermination of prairie dogs on private and public lands in Boulder and on City-owned lands in the Boulder Valley; and

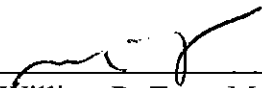
WHEREAS, the City of Boulder, through its Open Space and Mountain Parks programs has set aside over 5000 acres of public land as Prairie Dog Habitat Conservation Areas and is committed to the long-term management of these areas as functioning grassland ecosystems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO, THAT:

1. The City Council directs the City Manager to establish policies that will emphasize prairie dog habitat protection as a priority on all public and private lands, unless the presence of prairie dogs is in conflict with the existing or planned use of the site; or the public health and safety on or near the site is in jeopardy due to the presence of prairie dogs.
2. The City Council directs the City Manager that when the protection of prairie dog habitat is in conflict with the intended use of the site, relocation will be the method for removing the prairie dogs from the site.
3. The City Council directs the City Manager to establish policies such that the City of Boulder will accommodate all prairie dog relocation needs of private and public landowners in the city. Further, that City acceptance of relocated prairie dogs is based upon the condition that the landowner of the property where prairie dogs are to be removed will take the responsibility for all costs of relocation and receiving site preparation. Open Space properties will be the primary source of receiving sites for relocated prairie dogs, although other City-owned lands may receive prairie dogs if appropriate sites are available,

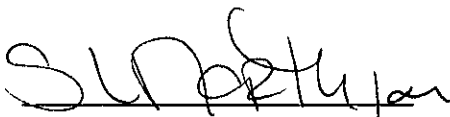
4. The City Council directs the City Manager and the Open Space Department to take the lead in finding and preparing receiving sites on Open Space properties. The City Manager and the Open Space Department are further directed to work to insure that appropriate ecological conditions are present for successful relocation. When, however, events occur where relocation is required and appropriate ecological conditions are not present on Open Space property, the Department will take reasonable extra measures to accommodate relocation needs, recognizing the relocation effort may be less successful than under more optimal conditions.

INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of January, 2000.



William R. Toor, Mayor

Attest:



City Clerk on behalf of the
Director of Finance and Records