

- 1 A Regular Meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Burlington was held in the Board Room, Burlington County Office Building, Mount Holly, New Jersey, on Wednesday, January 12, 2005, at 11:00 A.M. The meeting was opened with the flag salute and prayer by the Clerk. The Public Announcement was read in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

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- 2 ROLL CALL.

On roll call those answering to their names were: Dawn Marie Addiego, William S. Haines, Jr., and Deputy Director Vincent R. Farias. Freeholder Theresa D. Brown and Director James K. Wujcik were absent.

- 3 OFFICIALS.

Officials in attendance were: County Solicitor Crook, County Treasurer Nociti, Chief Financial Officer Brock, Purchasing Agent Giannini, County Engineer Caruso, Highway Supervisor Wnek, Resource Conservation Director Robbie, Public Health Coordinator Gogats, Economic Development Director Remsa, Assistant County Administrator DeLaRoi, and Public Information Officer Shrom.

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- 19 **RESOLUTION NO. 22** by Ms. Addiego, BOARD ENDORSES AND APPROVES THE TNR PROGRAM PROPOSED BY NATURE'S REFUGE AND DR. GORDON STULL AS A NEW WAY OF PROVIDING FOR THE WELFARE OF THESE ANIMALS WHILE BETTER SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES' PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS.

WHEREAS, the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders operates the Burlington County Animal Shelter (the "Shelter"), a facility to which stray and unwanted domestic animals from throughout Burlington County are brought; and

WHEREAS, most feral (unsocialized) cats brought to the Shelter are not adoptable as companion animals and therefore are euthanized; and

WHEREAS, the millions of feral cats now living in the United States result from the natural increase and continued influx of abandoned and stray unsterilized domestic cats; and

WHEREAS, this population has been created and perpetuated by failure to control the breeding of domestic household cats; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence and experience in the United States and other countries has shown that the implementation of a non-lethal "trap-neuter-return",

January 12, 2005

or "TNR", program that includes on-going feral cat colony management, is a humane and effective means for controlling and reducing the feral cat population while providing for the welfare of feral cats; and

WHEREAS, caring individuals and groups all across the country and in Burlington County are already effectively applying non-lethal management to control feral cat populations; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon Stull, a veterinarian who is respected Statewide, and Nature's Refuge, a nonprofit animal-welfare education organization, have secured a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation for the development and implementation of a county-wide TNR program in Burlington County; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the need for such a program to reduce the number of feral cats that are brought to the Shelter and to help address rabies outbreaks that have been found in cats in Burlington County within the past few years; now, therefore, it is

RESOLVED, on this 12th day of January 2005 that the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders does hereby endorse TNR as a method for addressing the uncontrolled proliferation of stray and feral cats in Burlington County and as the most effective humane method of controlling feral cat populations in Burlington County; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board endorses and approves the TNR program proposed by Nature's Refuge and Dr. Gordon Stull as a new way of providing for the welfare of these animals while better serving our communities' public health and safety concerns.