

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Theresa Williams Leads the Pack at Pet Adoption Center

County Welcomes 25-Year Professional to the Division of Humane Services

St. Charles County — St. Charles County Government is pleased to announce the arrival of Theresa Williams as the Director of the Division of Humane Services. Ms. Williams will be responsible for leading the county's animal control program and managing the highly successful Pet Adoption Center on Mid Rivers Mall Drive. Ms. Williams brings 25 years of humane service expertise to St. Charles County and is uniquely qualified to continue St. Charles County's impressive record of animal control and care. She assumed her duties in October. Her arrival was the culmination of a nine-month, nation-wide search effort.

As the new leader of the Division of Humane Services, Ms. Williams is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center which shelters and adopts animals, provides pet owner education and animal control services, and investigates incidents involving animal cruelty and neglect. She comes to St. Charles County from California where she served most recently as shelter manager for the City of Chula Vista Police Department Animal Shelter Division and previously worked in animal control for San Diego County. Her extensive experience includes shelter management, kennel, patrol, animal training, special investigations, public education and information for animal advocacy, and service on a dangerous dog task force. Ms. Williams graduated from the Humane Academy and Animal Control Officer Academy Levels I, II, and III and has earned certificates in Canine Temperament Testing,

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Disaster Planning, and Basic Supervision and Management. In addition, she was a certified trainer for Rabies and Dog Bite Prevention, a trainer for Interaction Management for the County of San Diego and an instructor for the National Animal Control Association training conference.

“Theresa has exceptional experience in humane services and brings a wealth of knowledge as well as a passion for animals to this position,” says Gil Copley, Director of St. Charles County’s Department of Community Health and the Environment, which oversees the Division of Humane Services. “She has volunteered and served in leadership roles for many animal welfare and advocacy groups and her dedication to promoting the responsible ownership of pets is a perfect match to the needs of our pet adoption program. We want to expand the services offered and she and her new staff are already planning a number of new initiatives and programs.”

Since her arrival in St. Charles County in October, Williams has eagerly tackled the challenges presented by the popularity of the St. Charles County Pet Adoption Center and looks forward to adding new programs and services to the facility.

“After exploring opportunities in areas all around the country, I decided that St. Charles County has much to offer. There are many animal control challenges here and an opportunity to work with others that wish to see the county develop new, progressive programs that help animals in this community.”

St. Charles County Government is pleased to have Ms. Williams’ caliber of experience on staff, as her dedication to the humane services profession will further enhance public service at the Pet Adoption Center.