



**COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION**

COURT ORDER NUMBER _____

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DATE: 12/3/2024

**SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DR. KENTON MURTHY AS
THE LOCAL RABIES CONTROL OFFICER FOR TARRANT COUNTY
PURSUANT TO TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 826.017**

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioner Court consider the appointment of Kenton K. Murthy, DO, MS, MPH, AAHVIS as Tarrant County Local Rabies Control Officer in accordance with Texas Health and Safety Code Section 826.017.

BACKGROUND

Under the Texas Health & Safety Code Section 826.017, each county's Commissioners Court is required to designate an officer to serve as the Local Rabies Control Authority. This officer may be the county health officer, municipal health officer, animal control officer, peace officer, or any other entity deemed appropriate by the Commissioners Court.

The Local Rabies Control Authority is responsible for enforcing:

1. Chapter 826 of the Texas Health & Safety Code and applicable Department of State Health Services rules for rabies control.
2. Ordinances or rules enacted by the municipality or county served by the authority.
3. Rules adopted by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission for area rabies quarantines under Sec 826.045.

On December 13, 2022, the Commissioners Court, through Court Order #139948, appointed Dr. Murthy to serve as the Local Rabies Control Officer with a term set to expire on December 13, 2024.

While Tarrant County contracts with the City of Fort Worth to provide rabies control services in unincorporated areas of the county, Tarrant County must still designate a Local Rabies Control Authority for cities within the county that lack such an officer. This designation ensures compliance with state law and supports rabies prevention and control efforts countywide.

Dr. Kenton Murthy has been the designated Local Rabies Control Officer since 2018.

With approval, the appointment of Dr. Murthy as the Local Rabies Control Officer would be effective until rescinded by a future action of the Commissioners Court.

SUBMITTED BY	Public Health	PREPARED BY:	Kenton Murthy
		APPROVED BY:	Kenton Murthy



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FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact with this appointment.