

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4209

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS
OF COG REGIONAL HOARDING SURVEY

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is a regional association comprised of elected officials representing 20 local governments in the National Capital Region, plus area members of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S. House of Representatives, and provides a focus for action in developing sound regional responses to such issues as the environment, affordable housing, economic development, health and family concerns, human services, population growth, public safety, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) is the principal policy advisor to the Board of Directors on a wide range of housing and human service issues and the Public Safety Policy Committee (HSPC) is the principal policy advisor to the Board of Directors on a wide range of public safety issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, upon the request of members of the COG Board of Directors, the issue of hoarding was accepted as a research project area by the Institute for Regional Excellence Regional Executive Development Program ; and

WHEREAS, a regional survey of hoarding in the National Capitol Region was completed which showed that hoarding is a complex, hidden and multi-dimensional issue which often requires a multi-agency response from local governments; and

WHEREAS, the regional survey of hoarding in the National Capitol Region provides comprehensive information on hoarding and recommends that local governments adopt a coordinated internal response to the issue; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the HSPC and PSPC formally reviewed the report, accepted its recommendations and both recommended that the COG Board of Directors receive a presentation on hoarding, the results of the survey and approve publication of the report at its October 11, 2006 meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. Hoarding of objects and animals is an important problem facing the Washington, DC metropolitan region and not only impacts the hoarder and the surrounding community, but is an issue for local governments who are currently struggling with how to investigate and intervene in these situations and how to effectively coordinate a response from multiple agencies.
2. The report, "Hoarding: A Dangerous Secret," provides important information about hoarding and recommendations on responding to this issue.
3. The hoarding report is approved for publication and copies shall be transmitted to COG member local governments for distribution to relevant local government agencies.