

# Informal Discussion: Cat Cafes

City Council Meeting  
December 12, 2022



# Introduction

- Staff recently spoke with a customer who expressed interest in opening a cat café in Port St. Lucie.
- Our Zoning Code does not currently provide for Cat Cafes so an amendment to the text of the zoning code would be required to allow this type of business.
- Staff is seeking direction from the Council as to if a city-initiated text amendment should be prepared at this time.



# Background

- Cat cafes are a growing trend. There are approximately 14 cat cafes operational in Florida.
- Cat Cafes typically offer food and beverage service of some type and then have a separate area for patrons to enter for the purpose of interacting with the resident cats if they wish.



# Issues/Analysis

- This use would fit in as a permitted use in CG and CS districts (commercial districts).
- This use could be appropriate in some, but not every, IN zoned property.



# Considerations for Cat Cafes in Industrial Districts

- Parking
- Traffic circulation
- Non-traditional users could out-compete industrial uses for the limited inventory of industrial space, and/or create other challenges that impede the industrial uses and their customary operations.



# Considerations for Cat Cafes in Industrial Districts

- Staff would suggest that if the Council is receptive to considering the proliferation of non-traditional uses in industrially zoned districts that those uses be permitted by a SEU (Special Exception) process.
- The SEU would ensure:
  - The adjacent businesses would be noticed and would have an opportunity to voice any concerns or issues to the Council for consideration.
  - Availability of parking for the use can be reviewed.
  - A traffic management plan or at minimum a review of the various user groups and traffic patterns can be part of the analysis.
- The SEU fee for this use could be set at 0 to allow the appropriate level of technical review and notice to occur at no additional cost to the proponent.



# Request

That the City Council provide direction to staff as to if a City-initiated Text Amendment should be drafted by staff and advanced for review and action.

