

WHEREAS, eighty percent of the antibiotics sold in the United States are used in livestock production, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that most of those antibiotics are used irresponsibly; and

WHEREAS, low doses of antibiotics are routinely fed to livestock for growth promotion and disease prevention to compensate for crowded, unsanitary conditions, in a practice known as “nontherapeutic use”; and

WHEREAS, “nontherapeutic use” creates ideal conditions for the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistant bacteria on livestock operations are known to spread to retail meat, farmers and farmworkers, and rural environments; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistance in pathogens due to nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock production has been a public health concern since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, antibiotic resistant bacteria have been the cause of several foodborne illness outbreaks, including a 2011 outbreak of antibiotic resistant *Salmonella* in ground turkey that sickened 136 people, hospitalized 37, and killed one and lead to the third largest meat recall in the USDA’s records and a 2013 outbreak of antibiotic resistant *Salmonella* in chicken that sickened 416 people and hospitalized 162; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least two million Americans suffer from antibiotic resistant bacterial infections each year and twenty-three thousand Americans die from those infections; and

WHEREAS, the medical and social costs of antibiotic-resistance infections in just one hospital for one year have been estimated to be between \$13 million and \$18 million; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has limited nontherapeutic uses of two classes of antibiotics, but otherwise largely relied on voluntary guidance to attempt to reduce overuse of antibiotics in livestock production, despite regular acknowledgements that nontherapeutic use and the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria poses a significant public health threat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Alexandria supports a statewide and national ban on nontherapeutic uses of antibiotics in livestock production; and the City of Alexandria supports the Protection of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)/Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alexandria will send a letter to our State Representatives, Congressional Representative and U.S. Senators calling for a ban on the nontherapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock agriculture and for them to co-sponsor the PAMTA/PARA.

Adopted _____

WILLIAM D. EUILLE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson
City Clerk and Clerk of Council