CITY OF AURORA, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NO. 026-067
DATE OF PASSAGE November 10, 2026

An Ordinance amending Chapter 9 of the Code of Ordinances, Sections 9.1 and 9.6, Regulating the Keeping of Carrier, Racing, Hobby, and Show Pigeons.

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora has a population of more than 25,000 persons and is, therefore, a home rule unit under subsection (a) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, subject to said Section, a home rule unit may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aurora seeks to ensure safe, sanitary, and properly regulated environments for animals kept within the city limits and to mitigate nuisance, sanitation, and property maintenance concerns related to pigeon keeping; and

WHEREAS, the Carrier, Racing, Hobby, and Show Pigeon Act, 510 ILCS 45/1 et seq., defines the categories of permissible pigeons that may be kept in Illinois, and the City of Aurora intends to align local ordinance language with the Act by allowing only carrier, racing, hobby, and show pigeons as defined therein and prohibiting all other pigeons from being kept or harbored within the city;

WHEREAS, the City further finds it necessary to establish requirements for annual registration with the Animal Control Manager, regulate loft maintenance and placement, prohibit ground feeding, require use of elevated secured feeders, ensure compliance with property maintenance and building codes, and impose penalties for violations;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City's home rule authority, these revisions to Chapter 9 are necessary to protect public health, prevent pest attraction, ensure responsible ownership practices, and preserve neighborhood conditions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Aurora, Illinois, as follows:
SECTION ONE: The City of Aurora Code of Ordinances, Chapter 9, is hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A, regulating the keeping of carrier, racing, hobby, and show pigeons.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-067
DATE OF PASSAGE November 10, 2026

SECTION TWO: SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION THREE: REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES. All prior Resolutions and Ordinances in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly repealed only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION FOUR: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately from and after its passage and approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 026-067

LEGISTAR NO. 26-0624

PASSED AND APPROVED ON: **November 10, 2026**

AYES 11 NAYS 0 NOT VOTING 0 ABSENT 1

ALDERMAN	Vote
Alderman Barreiro, Ward 1	absent
Alderwoman Garza, Ward 2	yes
Alderman Mesiacos, Ward 3	yes
Alderman Núñez, Ward 4	yes
Alderman Franco, Ward 5	yes
Alderman Saville, Ward 6	yes
Alderman Bañuelos, Ward 7	yes
Alderwoman Smith, Ward 8	yes
Alderman Bugg, Ward 9	yes
Alderwoman Baid, Ward 10	yes
Alderman Larson, At-Large	yes
Alderman White, At-Large	yes

ATTEST:

City Clerk Jennifer Stallings

Mayor John Laesch

CHAPTER 9: ANIMALS

Section 9.1 Definitions

***

Carrier pigeons, racing pigeons, hobby or show pigeons, and loft. Shall have the same meaning as used in the Carrier, Racing, Hobby, and Show Pigeon Act, 510 ILCS 45/1, et al.

***

Sec 9-6 ~~Reserved.~~ Carrier, Racing, Hobby, and Show Pigeons.

(a) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to contradict the Carrier, Racing, Hobby and Show Pigeon Act ("Act"), 510 ILCS 45/1, et al.

(b) Pigeons which are not carrier, racing, hobby, and show pigeons, as defined in the Act, are prohibited to be kept or harbored within the city.

(c) All persons keeping carrier, racing, hobby, or show pigeons, as defined in the Act, must:

(1) Register with the animal control manager annually, indicating the name, address, and number of such pigeons being kept, and other evidence that such person is in compliance with the Act as the animal control manager deems necessary and appropriate;

(2) Comply at all times with the building code and property maintenance code provisions in effect in the City of Aurora for every pigeon loft or premises;

(3) Maintain every pigeon loft and premises in a clean, orderly condition at all times; and

(4) Refrain from ground feeding, whether intentional or accidental scattering of seed, grain, bread, or food scraps on the ground or surfaces.

(d) No food, including but not limited to bird seed, corn, bread, food scraps, and animal chow, can be spread, cast, deposited, or dumped on the ground on public or private property. Only secured, elevated feeders designed for birds are allowed, and all spilled food must be removed promptly.

(e) Every property where such pigeons are kept shall be subject to Article 9 of this Chapter and the associated penalty provisions thereto.

(f) No pigeon loft shall exceed eight (8) feet in height or be built, constructed or maintained within fifty (50) feet of any property 1ine.