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9 IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE

10 CITY OF SEATTLE,

11 Plaintiff,

No. 677350

12 v.

DEFENSE SENTENCING
MEMORANDUM

13 ANTOINE LEANDER RUNNER
14 (AKA ANTOINE LEANDER TYRANT)

15 Defendant.
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17 Sentencing Judge: The Honorable Judge Anita Crawford-Willis

18 Sentencing Date: October 14, 2025, at 8:45am

19 Offense: Animal Cruelty: Injure/Kill an Animal
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22 **DEFENSE'S SENTENCING REQUEST**

23 Defense respectfully requests this Court to impose the following sentence:

- 24 • Credit for time served (172 days) and close.
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1 **BASIS FOR REQUEST**

2 Mr. Runner's Social History

3 Mr. Runner was born in Placerville, CA, and grew up in the Sacramento area. As a child,
4 his mother and maternal grandmother raised him. Then as a teenager, he was sent to Hawaii to
5 live with his father.

6 Throughout his life, Mr. Runner has experienced challenges with substance use and
7 mental health. Living with his father as a teenager, Mr. Runner was regularly exposed to illicit
8 drug use. He began regularly using alcohol when he was only 14 or 15 years old. When he was
9 17, his dad was convicted of drug dealing. Mr. Runner ended up having to live on his own. He
10 had difficulty with this change, and he ended up dropping out of high school. Between the ages
11 of 18 and 38, Mr. Runner worked full-time doing landscaping. Toward the later part of this
12 period, Mr. Runner became a functioning alcoholic and was drinking to the point of intoxication
13 daily.

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15 In 2018, Mr. Runner became unhoused, and he started using meth. After this, his
16 functioning swiftly declined—he had numerous legal issues, was repeatedly incarcerated, and
17 developed delusions and hallucinations. In 2020, Mr. Runner was diagnosed with Stimulant Use
18 Disorder and Provisional Unspecified Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorder.
19 Mr. Runner has an aunt and uncle who were also diagnosed with schizophrenia.

20 Mr. Runner has not had any new criminal charges since July 2023.

21 Addressing the Nature of the Charges

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23 Mr. Runner is taking responsibility for his actions by entering a guilty plea. He will have
24 been in custody for 172 days—five and a half months—as of October 14, 2025. This is an
25 extremely long time in custody for a misdemeanor charge in Seattle Municipal Court.

1 Defense recognizes that, to some, cruelty to animals may seem like a particularly
2 egregious crime. But the truth is that people hunt and kill animals all the time. They do so for
3 food, sport, research, health and safety, pest-control, and many other reasons. Our society has
4 arbitrarily determined which animals are acceptable to hunt and kill, and which are not. We have
5 decided that because cats are pets, they should not be hunted.

6 However, the animals involved in this case were not household cats who belonged to a
7 doting owner; they were feral cats running around in the Industrial District. Feral cats contribute
8 to billions of animal deaths each year, including animals from vulnerable or endangered species.¹
9 Feral cats have already contributed to the extinctions of several species.² Last year, the
10 Australian government invested \$60 million into a program to trap and “eradicate” feral cats.³

11 Defense offers this information, not as an excuse, but to place this case into perspective.
12 Defense asks this Court not to allow any sentimentality toward cats to influence its judgment.
13 The reality is that Mr. Runner has spent close to half a year in jail for killing an animal that is
14 considered to be a *pest* in many parts of the world. This punishment has been more than
15 sufficient. Mr. Runner has acknowledged the harm that he has caused and takes responsibility.
16 Additional jail time would be excessive.

17 CONCLUSION

18 Mr. Runner’s actions are clearly a product of the mental health and substance use issues
19 he has had since childhood. Unfortunately, he is not currently at a place in his life where he is
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23 ¹ <https://lifescienceinsights360.com/blog/death-by-feral-cat-dna-evidence-reveals-cats-as-key-culprits-in-the-decline-of-native-wildlife/>

24 ² *Id.*

25 ³ <https://minister.dcceew.gov.au/plibersek/media-releases/war-feral-cats-report-battlefield>

1 able to participate in mental health treatment. His homelessness and other struggles would inhibit
2 him from fully engaging with a mental health program.

3 Still, the many months Mr. Runner has served in jail provide adequate deterrence and
4 punishment for his crime.

5 Defense requests that this Court give Mr. Runner credit for the substantial time he has
6 served and close the case.

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8 DATED this 10th day of October, 2025.
9

10 /s/ Angela Liu
11 Angela Liu, WSBA No. 62741
12 Attorney for Mr. Runner
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