

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

June 8, 2020

Washoe County Manager, Eric Brown
1001 E. Ninth Street
Reno, NV 898512

City of Reno Interim Manager, Jason Soto
PO Box 1900
Reno, NV 89505

City of Sparks Manager, Neil Krutz
431 Prater Way
Sparks, NV 89431

Advisory Board Members:

Naomi Duerr, *Chair*
Dr. Annette Rink, *Vice Chair*
Paul Anderson
Jill Dobbs
Kitty Jung
Irene Payne
Al Rogers

Dear Manager Brown, Interim Manager Soto and Manager Krutz:

The Regional Animal Services Advisory Board (“ASAB”) convened a Special Meeting on February 27, 2020 to hear a presentation by Billy Howard, Founding Organizer of Puppy Mill Free (Reno, Sparks, Washoe, Carson, Douglas). Mr. Howard provided an overview of his advocacy work to end the sale of dogs and cats in retail stores in Northern Nevada, dating back to 2013.

In his presentation, Mr. Howard cited consumer protection and animal welfare as the basis for his proposal to ban the sale of dogs and cats in retail stores, to be accomplished through modifications to the business licensing requirements of the City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County, respectively. Enclosed you will find Mr. Howard’s supporting materials presented at the Special Meeting.

Following Mr. Howard’s presentation, the ASAB heard public comment both for and against Mr. Howard’s proposal. After discussion, the ASAB voted to recommend that each jurisdiction consider prohibiting the sale of dogs, cats, rabbits and ferrets in retail stores within their respective jurisdictions, to be accomplished through modifications to each jurisdiction’s business licensing requirements.

I am writing to inform you of the Advisory Board's action, and to request that you schedule a discussion of this request at one of your upcoming meetings. If you have already initiated action on an ordinance to end "puppy mills," I request that you proceed as expeditiously as possible to completion.

As available, either I or one of the ASAB members will be present at your meeting to answer questions and address any issues associated with moving forward with enacting such an ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Naomi S. Duerr, Chair

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Advisory Board

P.O. Box 1900

Reno, Nevada 89505

775-334-2017

duerrn@reno.gov

CC:

Washoe County Commission Chair, Bob Lucey

City of Sparks Mayor, Ron Smith

City of Reno Mayor, Hillary Schieve

Animal Services Advisory Board Members

Enclosures:

Letter from Billy Howard, Puppy Mill Free Reno