



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

April 11, 2022

Hon. Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor / Commissioner DCA  
Department of Community Affairs  
101 South Broad Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

Re: City Council's Rejection of Extension of Contract for Humane Animal Services

Dear LG:

Attached please find a copy of Trenton City Resolution 22-105 extending an animal welfare services contract for Trenton Animals Rock (TAR), which was rejected by City Council last week. TAR has been instrumental in our status of operating a "no-kill" shelter, which is now in jeopardy. In addition to our four (4) full-time animal control officers performing established duties handling and capturing wild and strayed domesticated animals, TAR supplemented their ranks by performing:

- Veterinarian Care (subcontractor)
- Dog walks and extraordinary care
- Adoption services
- Social media
- Vet tech support
- Socialization/behavior animal training
- Animal meet and greets

All of these services are now lost due to Council's voting down Resolution 22-105. While the Council Members who voted to reject the continuation of TAR's services felt City employees and/or our four (4) animal control officers could now immediately perform such duties, this is simply not true. Moreover, this would require us hiring additional staff as well as contracting out for veterinarian services, an occurrence that is unlikely given our budgetary constraints and necessity for DCA's approval under our MOU.

Accordingly, we are requesting expeditious approval to hire additional Animal Control Officers (ACO's) in order to 1) fully staff the Shelter and avoid the expense of overtime, 2) to contract out for veterinarian care, and 3) hire additional support staff to perform the above duties in place of TAR.

Please excuse any inconvenience that my presentation of this matter to you might cause, however I have determined that a resolution to this matter requires utmost urgency for the sake of the animals embraced under the care of the City of Trenton animal shelter.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Yours very truly



W. Reed Gusciora  
Mayor

cc: Jacquelyn Suarez, Director, LGS  
Sen. Shirley K. Turner  
Asw. Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
Asm. Anthony Verrelli  
Dr. Adela Lopez, Director, Health & Human Services  
George Helmy, Office of the Governor  
Arch Liston, Trenton Chief of Staff  
Adam Cruz, Business Administrator  
Wesley Bridges, City Attorney  
Kathy McBride, Council President  
Marge Caldwell Wilson, Council Vice President