



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

January 16, 2017

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Proposed Legislation to Update the DC Code's Definition for Cruelty to Animals

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Mayor Bowser:

At its regular meeting on January 11, 2017, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC 2B" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0):

WHEREAS, in January 2017, many ANC 2B residents, as well as residents throughout Washington, DC, were made aware of the inadequate protections afforded to pets in the District of Columbia through the plight of "Momma", a dog that had continually been left outside during extreme cold weather,

WHEREAS, "Momma", a dog located in the District, was confined to a small pen with a wooden box and straw as her only protection against freezing temperatures for four days,

WHEREAS, "Momma", a dog located in the District, was allowed by its owner to become emaciated with protruding joints and clearly visible ribs,

WHEREAS, DC Code Sec. 22-1001(a)(1) states that, "Whoever knowingly...or unnecessarily fails to provide...proper food, drink, air, light, space, veterinary care, shelter, or protection from the weather, shall for every such offense be punished by imprisonment in jail not exceeding 180 days, or by fine not exceeding \$250, or by both,"

WHEREAS, animal welfare authorities struggled to help "Momma" because this mere wooden box is currently considered adequate "shelter" under District law, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B enthusiastically supports legislative action to address the regulatory gaps that allowed for Momma's sad story to occur and prevent future abuse of any animal in the District of Columbia.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B advises the DC Council to define emaciated animals without proof of veterinary care as a criteria for Cruelty to Animals under DC Code § 22-1001–1015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B advises the DC Council to pass appropriate legislation to ensure that owners of animals in the district are required to provide adequate shelter that protects the animals from both extreme cold and extreme heat, including in vehicles.

Commissioners Scott Davies (2B09@anc.dc.gov) and Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Mann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Mann
Chair