



Thank you for your commitment to creating a better community for the residents of South Central Michigan through your participation in the democratic process. The Humane Society of South Central Michigan (HSSCM) believes that many of the answers to today's challenging questions lie within the dedication and intellect of local elected officials. Given the significance of your potential responsibility as a City Commissioner, the Humane Society of South Central Michigan feels it is our responsibility to educate your campaign on the importance of responsible legislation relative to animal care and control issues, as well as inform our members of your position on these important topics.

Each year the Humane Society processes nearly 1,000 animals from Calhoun, Barry, Branch, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph counties, providing a resource for animal care services outside of tax-funded municipal animal control facilities. Our mission is to provide comprehensive animal care and advocacy services to the residents of South Central Michigan and we do so through individual donations exceeding \$700,000 and volunteer contributions exceeding 1,500 hours annually. However, throughout our nearly 124 years of operation in the community, we have come to understand that no amount of money or volunteer time will fully address the issues related to animal care and control without the help of municipal governments creating and enforcing responsible animal care and control policy.

We invite you to take a moment to review and complete the attached questionnaire and to call us at 269.963.1796 to set up an informative meeting, submit your questionnaire, tour our facility and speak with our staff members. Completed questionnaires may be published in our newsletter which circulates to over 3,000 households, on our website or any other platform in which we desire. Completed questionnaires, along with candidate headshots or preferably a photo featuring the candidate and their pet(s), are due no later than 10/1/2011.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. I look forward to speaking with you about animal welfare in our community.

Sincerely,

Jessica L. Gilbert
Executive Director