



## 2011 Legislative Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Lynn Ward Gray

Office Sought: City Commissioner, Ward 2

Candidate Committee: Citizens For Lynn Ward Gray, 245 Irving Park Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

Candidate Phone: (269) 830-2456

Candidate Email: lynnwardgray@comcast.net

Candidate Address: 245 Irving Park Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49037

1. Do you have any pets? If so, please list species, breed and name(s) of pets.

Yes, 2- both Dachshunds , Sweet Pea/female (miniature) & Woody/male

2. Do you believe issues related to the population of stray dogs and/or cats negatively impact important development strategies in our community? If so, please explain.

Yes, as one example, in my Ward, Ward 2, walkability can be challenging in certain areas. The health of our community is hampered if you don't feel safe to walk or be out in your neighborhood due to stray dogs and/or cats, so the development of a vibrant, alive and healthy community is impacted.

3. Do you believe the current municipal animal control budget provides adequate funding for its overall responsibilities? If not, please explain areas of critical need not currently provided by animal control.

The 2010-11 estimated actual of almost \$325K compared to the budgeted \$302K, points to a need higher than budgeted. Adding an additional shift and staff member would be nice but when you take all areas of the budget into account, trying to reach a balance in budget cuts as a commission is always a challenge.

4. Do you believe that pet-friendly policies, particularly in downtown areas, can be important factors contributing to economic development or a more livable community? If so, please describe.

In many cases, pets are a part of our lives, they enhance our human experience tremendously, so if we can make it easier for pets to be a part of our everyday world taking into consideration health, safety and welfare issues, I support pet-friendly policies as a contributing factor to economic development & a more livable community.

5. How would you handle the feral or stray cat overpopulation problem in our community?

I know Commissioner Sullivan is really involved with this issue, she belongs to an organization that addresses this, so I would look to that organization or ones like it. I think organizations like this are needed and welcome in our community.

6. If elected, would you support any form of canine breed restrictions?

I'm not very familiar with this issue, so I would welcome some additional information during my visit.

7. If elected, would you support stricter penalties for animal related offenses such as neglect and abuse?

I or my family has owned dogs since I was born, and believe in the motto of "man's best friend" or in this case women's and as a true family member, you wouldn't purposely hurt them. I strongly believe in creating an environment that sends a message to everyone that neglect or abuse of animals is not acceptable and would support stricter penalties for animal related offenses as budgets allow.

Upon the completion of this survey please contact Jake Smith at (269)963-1796 to schedule a brief meeting and tour of our facility.