



2011 Legislative Questionnaire

Candidate Name: SHERRY SOFIA Office Sought: CITY COMMISSION - WARD 3

Candidate Committee: SHERRY SOFIA FOR CITY COMMISSIONER

Candidate Phone: 269.969.9725 Candidate Email: sherrysofia4bc@gmail.com

Candidate Address: 249 GARFIELD, BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

1. Do you have any pets? If so, please list species, breed and names of pets.

We currently have no pets.

I had a cat. He was a Himalayan and his name was Harley.

I grew up on a farm and had dogs, cats, cows, pigs, horses, chickens and rabbits.

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.

I am not aware of any issues related to the population of stray dogs and/or cats that have negatively impacted important development strategies in our community. Animal welfare is a moral issue and its impact on development strategies is secondary. I would welcome information on this subject.

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.

No, I do not believe that the current municipal animal control budget provides adequate funding for its overall responsibilities. There are too few animal control officers and they only provide coverage during normal daytime work hours Monday-Friday, thus leaving evening and weekend hours without coverage by any professional animal control officers. Unfortunately, evenings and weekends are often when people that work during the day are home and could potentially require assistance.

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.

Pet-friendly policies can be important factors contributing to quality of life issues which can, in turn, lead to a more fulfilled workforce. I have yet to find any areas of Battle Creek where pets are not permitted (other than those where they are prohibited by the Public Health Code).

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

Promotion of adoption programs to get people to take in stray cats will help with those stray animals that already exist. My mother-in-law has taken in 2 stray cats and my brother-in-law has taken in one stray and is providing food and shelter for a second feral cat. Getting any handle on the feral or stray cat overpopulation problem in our community will only be accomplished when animal owners are educated and spay or neuter their animals.

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

I have seen no evidence that any specific breed of canine should be restricted.

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

I would like to see stricter penalties for animal related offenses such as neglect and abuse. I am not sure what latitude the city would have to enact an ordinance that is stricter than state law but would encourage prosecutors to prosecute individuals that abuse or neglect animals.