



City of **MUNCIE**

MUNCIE, INDIANA

Sharon McShurley, Mayor

March 25, 2010

Mr. Todd Donati, President
Delaware County Commissioners
110 West Main Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305

HAND DELIVERED

RE: Proposal for Animal Control in Muncie and Delaware County

Dear Todd:

On behalf of the City of Muncie, this letter constitutes a formal proposal to the County Commissioners to establish a comprehensive program for the operation and administration of animal care and control services for all of Muncie and unincorporated areas of Delaware County, Indiana. As is generally known, this is an area that presents great potential for our city and county units of government to work together for the benefit of all citizens of Muncie and Delaware County.

Based upon extensive research, prolonged and enlightened community input, and a careful evaluation of the current level of service available, I am writing to propose that Muncie and Delaware County work together to adopt one of the following two options, either of which would be in the best interests of all of our constituents:

OPTION 1

Delaware County would assume responsibility for all animal control efforts in the unincorporated areas of Delaware County and include the City of Muncie. In turn, the City of Muncie would propose leasing to Delaware County for a nominal amount all of its current facilities, vehicles, and equipment currently being used for the City's animal control program. As a further part of this proposal, the City would commit to enact complimentary ordinances for animal control vesting the authority and responsibility for such efforts with the County and would dissolve the Muncie Animal Control Commission (MACC).

Under this scenario, county taxes would pay for animal control for all unincorporated areas of Delaware County, including within the City of Muncie, and this would allow all citizens to benefit from the economies of scale resulting from the combined operations and elimination of duplicated services since all enforcement, administration, operation and programming would be consolidated under the control of Delaware County Government. (Note: This is similar to the model used for the administration of the Delaware County Health Department for many years).

Mr. Todd Donati
March 25, 2010
Page Two

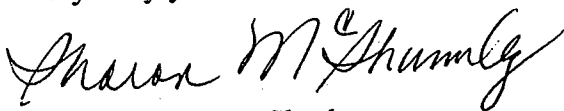
OPTION 2

The City of Muncie would retain responsibility for animal control services and would extend such services to all residents of the unincorporated areas of Delaware County. The County would commit to the adoption of ordinances allowing the City to provide animal control services and the Muncie Animal Control Commission would be expanded to become the Muncie-Delaware County Animal Control Commission. This proposal contemplates that ordinances would be enacted to provide for one member of the Commission to be appointed by the County Commissioners.

For this proposal to become feasible from a fiscal standpoint, the City proposes that Delaware County commit to providing the equivalent of \$125,000 annually to cover the costs of extending animal control services provided by City government to those unincorporated areas of Delaware County that are not a part of the City of Muncie. As with Option 1, this would allow all citizens of Muncie and Delaware County to benefit from the economies of scale resulting from the combined operations and elimination of duplicated services since all enforcement, administration, operation and programming would be consolidated under the control of Muncie City Government though Delaware County taxpayers would be granted representation on the Animal Control Commission in proportion to the amount of funding provided by County Government.

Please consider the foregoing proposals as a good faith attempt on the part of the City to work with Delaware County to establish a comprehensive animal care and control program which will benefit all citizens of Muncie and Delaware County. If either option is selected, it will result in a much more effective and humane system of providing animal care and control services for all of our constituents. I look forward to receiving your response.

Very truly yours,



Mayor Sharon McShurley
City of Muncie

pc: Larry W. Bledsoe, Jr., Vice President
Don Dunnuck, Member
Michael Quirk, County Attorney
Beasley & Gilkison, LLC, City of Muncie Legal Counsel
Mike King, President, Muncie Common Council