

From: [Shaw, Ramya](#)
Subject: Fwd: Introduction & Invitation for Discussion: Overturning Mayor Simmon's Veto of LR31.072
Date: Monday, December 29, 2025 8:22:25 PM

Please see my response below to Ms. Roeckle explaining our situation and our inability to attend.

Thank you,
Ramya

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Shaw, Ramya" <RShaw@stamfordct.gov>
Date: December 29, 2025 at 6:17:46 PM MST
To: Kristen Roeckle <kroeckle@luckydogrefuge.com>
Subject: Re: Introduction & Invitation for Discussion: Overturning Mayor Simmon's Veto of LR31.072

Hi Kristen,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this meeting. While this is very well intended, our Counsel has advised that such a meeting would conflict with our obligations regarding open and noticed meetings under FOIA. As such, attending this meeting is not possible for this board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Ramya Shaw
President - 32 Board of Representatives

On Dec 29, 2025, at 9:52 AM, Kristen Roeckle
<kroeckle@luckydogrefuge.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Stamford Board of Representatives,

I wanted to follow up on my previous note. We understand that the Board has a limited window to act on the Mayor's veto of Ordinance LR31.072, so in advance of a vote which could happen as early as next week, we hope to create space for an open, constructive dialogue. Our goal is to ensure you have the opportunity to ask

questions, raise concerns, and engage directly with those working on this issue every day as you consider overturning the Mayor's veto of the Humane Pet Store Ordinance, in alignment with the previous Board's 35-1-1 vote.

To support that dialogue, **Lucky Dog Refuge and the Humane World for Animals, will be hosting a virtual informational session for the Board of Representatives this Friday, January 2, from 4:00–7:00 PM**. The session is intentionally designed as a flexible, drop-in format to accommodate your schedules. It is intended to be an executive-level exchange, limited to members of the Board, so that you may speak freely and candidly without public pressure. At the top of each hour, we will offer a brief presentation to provide context, followed by an open discussion and Q&A driven entirely by your questions and priorities.

Lucky Dog Refuge leadership will provide a brief overview of dogs we have taken into rescue that originated from Stamford pet stores, including cases involving illness as well as situations where unprepared buyers were unable to return dogs to the store after purchase. We will share documentation showing how certain Stamford pet stores have sourced dogs from some of the most problematic commercial breeders, and explain the downstream impact these practices create for unknowing buyers, local rescue organizations, and municipal animal control. Annie Hornish, Connecticut State Director for Humane World for Animals, will join the session to address the legal concerns cited in the Mayor's veto, explain why those concerns do not preclude municipal action, and share how similar ordinances have been successfully implemented and defended in other communities. **We will also be sending a briefing document to provide additional context ahead of the conversation.**

We truly hope you will consider joining us for this discussion. Our aim is to listen, provide clarity where helpful, and ensure you have the information you need as you evaluate the path forward on this ordinance.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, and we will follow up shortly with access details.

For the Dogs,

Kristen Roeckle, Board of Directors

Kirstin Mende, Founder & CEO

Jessica Barnes, Executive Director, Lucky Dog Refuge

[Lucky Dog Refuge is a 501c\(3\) organization located at 36 Pulaski Street in Stamford, Connecticut.](#)

In CC: Animal rights and rescue leaders of Stamford, CT including:

1. John Louizos, Board of Directors, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
2. Maria Lovello, Volunteer and Rescue Foster, [Stamford Animal Shelter Alliance](#) (Stamford resident)
3. Amanda Erb, Founder, [Hazel's House Rescue](#) (Stamford resident)
4. Diane Holcombe, Founder, [Red Leash Rescue](#) (Stamford resident)
5. Nicole Bruck, Founder, [Animals R Family](#) (Stamford resident)
6. Matthew Witek, Lucky Dog Refuge x [Stamford Run Club](#) Liaison

On Mon, Dec 8, 2025 at 11:27 AM Kristen Roeckle
<kroeckle@luckydogrefuge.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Stamford Board of Representatives,

My name is Kristen Roeckle, and I serve on the Board of Directors of **Lucky Dog Refuge, a 501(c)(3) animal rescue located at 36 Pulaski Street here in Stamford.**

I am writing on behalf of our Board of Directors and staff to congratulate you on joining (or continuing to serve on) this important legislative body and to introduce ourselves as partners in the work ahead. Lucky Dog Refuge operates daily within Stamford's animal welfare landscape, handling medical, cruelty, and neglect cases in our region, in partnership with other non-profit and municipal organizations such as the Stamford Animal Control and Care Center. **It was disappointing to hear that Mayor Simmons chose to veto the previous Board of Representative's 35-1-1 passing of the humane pet store ordinance this past Friday, even after an overwhelming amount of community support.**

Our goal is to facilitate open, transparent, and constructive dialogue around the opportunity to overturn the mayor's veto of Ordinance LR31.072. We want to understand your questions and priorities as you begin your due diligence on this ordinance and consider an override. The previous BoR vote reflected months of due diligence and the clear sentiment of Stamford residents, animal welfare leaders - many of whom are copied on this email and stand united in their support. This newly seated Board now has an extraordinary opportunity to consider an override in alignment with the will of constituents and the broad coalition of organizations committed to humane policy in Stamford. We hope you will give us the opportunity to share our perspective, our data, and the lived experiences of the animals and families we serve.

We plan to host a community-focused conversation on the ordinance and the future of animal welfare in Stamford in the coming days. We will reach out with details and an invitation once the details are finalized, and we would be honored to have you join us for an open discussion.

In the meantime, know that our doors are open. If any of you have questions — whether about the ordinance itself, the fallout our rescue experiences from these pet stores, our partnership with Stamford Animal Control and Care Centers, or the broader policy landscape — we would be more than happy to connect individually or as a group.

Thank you for your service to Stamford and for the time and thoughtful consideration you devote to this critical issue. We look forward to engaging with you and supporting a well-informed path forward as this Board evaluates whether to override the veto and realign with the wishes of Stamford residents.

For the Dogs,

Kristen Roeckle
Board of Directors, Lucky Dog Refuge

Kirstin Mende
Founder & CEO, Lucky Dog Refuge

Jessica Barnes
Executive Director, Lucky Dog Refuge, Stamford Resident

Supporters in Cc:

1. John Louizos, Board of Directors, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
2. Amanda Erb, Founder, Hazels House Rescue (Stamford resident)
3. Diane Holcombe, Founder, Red Leash Rescue (Stamford resident)
4. Nicole Bruck, Founder, Animals R Family (Stamford resident)
5. Maria Lovello, Volunteer and Rescue Foster, Stamford Animal Control (Stamford resident)
6. Matthew Witek, Lucky Dog Refuge x Stamford Run Club Liaison
7. Leonor Lopez, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
8. Jen Volker Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
9. Gian Marco Montanari, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
10. Kristina Razza, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
11. Gabbie Volpetti, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
12. Nicholas DiNino, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
13. Geena Chiacu, Lucky Dog Refuge Adopter (Stamford Resident)
14. Meaghan Conway, Lucky Dog Refuge Adopter (Stamford Resident)

15. Taylor Leach, Animal Advocate (Stamford Resident)
16. Lauren Marvin, Animal Advocate (Stamford Resident)
17. Rebecca Cooperman, Animal Advocate, Beagle Freedom, Lucky Dog
Refuge, NYACC (Stamford resident)
18. Annie Hornish, CT State Director, Humane World for Animals
19. Joshua Levin, Legislative Advocate, CT Votes for Animals

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Kristen Roeckle

(914) 954-9661

[linkedin.com/kroeckle](https://www.linkedin.com/company/kroeckle)



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