

From: [Sherwood, Nina](#)
To: [BOR AllReps](#); [BOR OfficeStaff](#)
Subject: Fwd: Legal representation
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 7:07:20 PM

Please see below email from Amy Jesse, Public Policy Director of Humane World for Animals, regarding LR.31072.

Board office please make this correspondence a part of the public record.

Thank you,

Nina Sherwood
President
Stamford Board of Representatives
Proudly Representing District 8
(203) 554-1485
nsherwood@stamfordct.gov

Nina Sherwood
Majority Leader
Stamford Board of Representatives
Proudly Representing District 8
(203) 554-1485
nsherwood@stamfordct.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: Annie Hornish <ahornish@humaneworld.org>
Subject: Fw: Legal representation
Date: November 3, 2025 at 6:50:14 PM EST
To: "Sherwood, Nina" <nsherwood@stamfordct.gov>

From: Amy Jesse <ajesse@humaneworld.org>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 4:07 PM
To: nsherwood@stamfordCT.gov <nsherwood@stamfordCT.gov>;
pberns@stamfordct.gov <pberns@stamfordct.gov>
Cc: Annie Hornish <ahornish@humaneworld.org>
Subject: Legal representation

Dear Chair Berns and Representative Sherwood,

Thank you for voting to move the humane pet store ordinance forward last Monday evening, and for the fruitful discussion on this important issue.

I am writing to follow up on some questions that were raised last Monday, and the request of my colleague, Annie Hornish, to ensure Stamford has legal representation in the unlikely event that the city faces a lawsuit challenging the humane pet store ordinance.

First, I have good news to share. A senior partner at Holland & Knight — [Keith Carroll](#) — has agreed to represent Stamford pro bono, should anyone file suit challenging the ordinance as preempted by state law. Mr. Carroll has extensive business and government litigation experience in Connecticut, and clerked for the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Second, I want to reiterate that my colleagues and I are committed to ensuring Stamford's pet store ordinance meets its animal welfare and consumer protection goals. Should the ordinance be challenged in court, our legal team stands ready to assist in its defense in whatever way is most beneficial to the case, and to the extent allowed by the court. Potential ways we could help include joining the lawsuit as a party/additional defendant (requiring court approval of intervenor status), submitting a "friend of the court" brief to make our legal case for upholding the ordinance (requiring court approval of amicus status), and/or assisting the defense team by providing our extensive issue and legal expertise. We have played each of these roles in defense of similar laws across the nation and have an impressive track record. *Humane pet store laws have been challenged in federal and state courts and have never been struck down.*

Please ensure this ordinance becomes law, utilizing Stamford's home rule authority to do right by pets and families. I'm looking forward to Wednesday's vote, and am here for any questions beforehand.

Sincerely,

Amy Jesse

Public Policy Director, Puppy Mills

ajesse@humaneworld.org

240-753-2428

humaneworld.org



**Humane
World for
Animals.**

Together, we tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering to create permanent change. Stay up to date with our work to help animals and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#) and subscribe to our [blog](#).

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