

32ND BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

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RAMYA SHAW

Clerk of the Board

PARKER JOHNSON

Majority Leader

ERIC B. MORSON

Deputy Majority Leaders

DANIEL SANDFORD

MAUREEN POLLACK

RESOLUTION NO. 4421

RESOLUTION URGING THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT A STATEWIDE BAN ON THE SALE OF DOGS, CATS, AND RABBITS OR LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS, CATS, AND RABBITS IN PET SHOPS

WHEREAS, Chapter 111 of the Stamford Code of Ordinances enables the City to exercise authority granted to it pursuant to Chapter 98 of the Connecticut General Statutes to regulate the sale of live animals and to prevent cruelty to animals; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2025, Stamford's 31st Board of Representatives Legislative and Rules Committee unanimously approved LR31.072, An Ordinance Regulating the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores, for public hearing in anticipation of state action on House Bill No. 6832, and on March 25, 2025, the Committee conducted a duly noticed public hearing on LR31.072 at which there was overwhelming public support, including testimony from Humane World and other animal welfare advocates; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stamford has previously urged the Connecticut General Assembly to affirm municipal authority to regulate the retail sale of certain animals, including through the Board's approval on April 7, 2025, of Resolution No. 4366, a Resolution Urging the Connecticut General Assembly to Enact Legislation Authorizing Municipalities to Prohibit the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Pet Shops; and

WHEREAS, state and federal inspection reports have documented that certain pet stores source puppies and kittens from large-scale commercial breeding operations with deficient animal welfare records; and

WHEREAS, abuses endemic to some commercial breeding operations include overbreeding, inbreeding, inadequate veterinary care, insufficient food, water, shelter, sanitation, and lack of proper socialization and enrichment; and

WHEREAS, animals bred under such conditions are at increased risk of serious health and behavioral problems, often resulting in significant emotional and financial hardship for consumers; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant *Campylobacter* infections linked to contact with pet store puppies, posing public health risks to consumers and employees alike; and

WHEREAS, Stamford Animal Control and local animal rescue organizations care for numerous dogs and cats in need of permanent homes, and promoting adoption over retail sales helps reduce shelter overcrowding and taxpayer burden; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits reduces demand for animals bred in commercial breeding facilities and promotes humane, transparent, and ethical treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS, in response to municipal advocacy, the Connecticut General Assembly introduced House Bill No. 6832, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Prohibit the Sale of Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits in Pet Shops; and

WHEREAS, enactment of House Bill No. 6832 would provide municipalities, including Stamford, with clear statutory authority to prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops and would allow local ordinances to take effect consistent with state law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 32nd Board of Representatives of the City of Stamford strongly urges the Connecticut General Assembly to enact House Bill No. 6832, or similar legislation, expressly authorizing municipalities to prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such legislation would promote the humane treatment of animals, protect consumers, safeguard public health, reduce pet overpopulation, and alleviate financial and operational burdens on municipalities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Stamford's state legislative delegation, the leadership of the Connecticut General Assembly, and the Governor of the State of Connecticut.

This resolution was approved on the Consent Agenda at the regular monthly meeting of the 32nd Board of Representatives held on February 2, 2026



Ramya Shaw, President
32nd Board of Representatives



Parker Johnson, Clerk
32nd Board of Representatives

cc: Mayor Caroline Simmons
Thomas Cassone, Esq., Law Department
David Hoak, Town & City Clerk
Elda Sinani, Director of OPM
Leah Kagan, Acting Director of Administration
Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations
Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff
Leah Kagen, Director of Economic Development
Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare
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VACANT, Transportation Bureau Chief