

## Rosenson, Valerie

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**From:** Jenny Colucci [jcolucci@opin.org](mailto:jcolucci@opin.org)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2014 5:43 PM  
**To:** Board of Representatives  
**Cc:** Ali Giardi; Alexandra Perimenis (OPIN)  
**Subject:** Cynthia Smith - Deceased - Left Estate to Stamford Animal Control

By way of introduction, I am Jenny Colucci, Co-director of OPIN, Inc., the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been financially supporting the Stamford Animal Control facility since 2007. Outreach to Pes In Need provides the medical care, medicines, dog training and evaluations, microchipping, foster care, web services, advertising, volunteer help and much more to the shelter.

I think it is important, as representatives of the Stamford residents, to make you aware of the last will and testament of a Ms. Cynthia Smith, deceased, who left her entire estate to the City of Stamford, Animal Care & Control.

I came to know Cindy well during the time she volunteered with the shelter. She was active at the shelter, caring for the pets and cleaning the facility, whatever was needed. She and I had many discussions about the shelter; about its condition and as with all the volunteers, both past and present, our hopes for a new shelter facility. I'm sure many of you agree that this is what is needed and we are encouraged by the prospects that a new shelter will eventually be constructed. Our goal, as it has always been, is to improve upon what the anticipated \$2 million City funding will build, making a state-of-the-art facility that will deliver many community outreach and educational programs to the residents, a comfortable and peaceful place for its staff and the pets that will come under its care.

Cindy had no family other than her mom, who passed in 2010. She said everything in her estate would be left for the animals. Cindy passed on 4/25/13 and as she had promised, she left her entire estate as follows, I quote, **"My Trustee shall liquidate all of my property, both real and personal. My Trustee shall distribute the net proceeds form the liquidation of all of my property to the City of Stamford - Animal Care and Control for the use by it solely for the purchase of food, supplies and veterinary care for the animals sheltered by the agency."** Cindy's will is dated 8/7/2007. Although she never took the opportunity, as she had intended to update and make it more specific, i.e., to indicate that the funds were NOT to go into the City's General Fund, I believe Cindy's intention should be honored. Cindy would not have wanted her money to be used to pay for the normal operating bills for the City. She would have wanted her money to be used in more meaningful way, perhaps to buy kennel supplies at the new shelter, something other than what is covered by the General Fund and the normal operating budget.

I ask and trust that, collectively you discuss and take the appropriate steps to follow up and ensure that the funds are earmarked for the New Shelter that will eventually be constructed. There will be many supplies needed for the new shelter like, fencing, exam tables, bathing, animal kennels, medical supplies, etc. So this may be an appropriate suggested use of the money.

Besides any bank accounts, and safety deposit box contents, Cindy owned two real properties, her mom's home at: 240 Hillandale Avenue, assessed at \$211,880 and her condominium at 151 Courtland Ave., unit 3B, assessed at \$91,040.

Ms. Hollywood, Shelter Director has been notified of Cindy's will as well as the City Legal Department. Cindy's Executor and Trustee is Edward Kanowitz, Attorney, 112 Prospect Street, Stamford, CT

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06901, telephone 203-348-4924.

Warm regards,

Jenny Colucci  
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*Outreach to Pets In Need (OPIN)*

*OPIN, Inc., PO Box 488, Riverside, CT 06878*

*Supporting the Stamford, CT Animal Shelter since 2007*

*"putting an end to pet homelessness"*