

CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 23, 2021

RESOLUTION HONORING FOREVER PAWS ANIMAL SHELTER ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, In February 1996, a group of animal loving volunteers came together to establish Forever Paws Animal Shelter, a non-profit organization dedicated to the compassionate care of stray and abandoned dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, Forever Paws Animal Shelter was originally located in a garage on Montaup Street, with ten kennels, a few cat cages and a core group of dedicated volunteers, who not only housed animals that could not be accommodated in the small shelter in their homes, but collected bottles and cans for the recycling monies to keep the shelter operational and to weather the first few years of growing pains; and

WHEREAS, After losing the Montaup Street location in February 2003, a kind hearted animal lover, donated a plot of land on Lynwood Street in Fall River and the capital campaign began to raise the funding necessary to build a new shelter; and

WHEREAS, With overwhelming support from animal lovers near and far, the fundraising campaign was an enormous success and Forever Paws Animal Shelter held the ribbon cutting ceremony, ten months later, at their current location at 300 Lynwood Street in Fall River, where the shelter now has 40 dog kennels, an outdoor doggie play and exercise area, an agility trail and walking paths, along with indoor and outdoor accommodations and play areas for the kittens and cats at the shelter; and

WHEREAS, Forever Paws Animal Shelter currently has multi-year contracts with the Animal Control Departments of New Bedford, Fall River and Westport to care for the stray, abandoned, injured or surrendered animals and also partners with shelters from outside the State and from Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, Forever Paws Animal Shelter is active in the local communities they serve, with educational and outreach programs in schools and nursing homes, a cable television program, 'Straight From the Paws', the WSAR radio segment 'FURs-day', and promotes an expanded volunteer foster program that currently has 37 animals in foster homes that they would otherwise not be able to care for at the shelter; and

WHEREAS, Forever Paws Animal Shelter, under the leadership of Gail Furtado, President of the Board of Directors, and with the support of the generous financial sponsors and the dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, all whom are committed to go above and beyond for animals in their care and to continue their commitment to not only the care of those animals but to providing an avenue that allows for the adoption into loving families who will provide the 'FOREVER' homes to stray and abandoned animals:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That New Bedford City Council hereby congratulates and honors the good works of **FOREVER PAWS ANIMAL SHELTER** on this, their **25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**, thanks them for the work they do each day and extends best wishes for continued success in the care of and the placement of animals in their Forever Homes.

Offered by:

Linda M. Morad, Councillor at Large

Joseph P. Lopes, City Council President

Ian Abreu, Councillor at Large

Hugh C. Dunn, Councillor Ward Three

Derek Baptiste, Councillor Ward Four

Maria E. Giesta, Councillor Ward Two

Naomi R.A. Carney, Councillor at Large

Brian K. Gomes, Councillor at Large

Debora Coelho, Councillor at Large

Scott J. Lima, Councillor Ward Five

William Markey, Councillor Ward One