

May 30, 2016
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COMMUNICATION
CW (WORKING SESSION)
<u>JUNE 1/16</u>
ITEM - <u>2</u>

Attention: City of Vaughan Council (To be added to the agenda of the whole committee on June 1st, 2016 at 9:30am).

Dear City of Vaughan Council:

I am writing to inform you that I have recently begun volunteering with Monika Sudds and her team in their efforts to reduce the stray community cat population in Vaughan and humanely care for these cats by means of providing them with nourishment and shelter, and loving homes for those that are able to be domesticated.

Since December 2015, I have been the colony caretaker of at least fifteen (15) stray cats at Weston and Rutherford Rd. Many cats in this colony have had TNMR provided to them by Monika and her team. I also took part in the trapping process which occurred mostly during the winter months during extreme sub-zero temperatures. The commitment and compassion shown by Monika and her team during this time I found to be awe inspiring, and I was humbled by the work I witnessed them complete, and thus joined them in their endeavors.

During the day I work as a high school teacher, and every day after work, I visit the colony and provide fresh water and food to these fifteen (15) plus stray community cats. I incur cat food expenses of roughly \$50.00-\$75.00 each month.

In addition, I feed approximately four (4) cats in my own neighbourhood of Weston Downs, which is just a block south of the colony in the aforementioned. Ever since I moved to Vaughan twenty seven (27) years ago, my family and I have provided nourishment, shelter, and veterinary care to stray cats in our neighbourhood. I cannot even accurately estimate the financial costs we have incurred over these twenty seven (27) years of carrying for hundreds of cats, but I would estimate that it is in the tens of thousands, if not substantially more. My father even built a shelter for these cats in our home's garage which provides shelter for many stray cats in my

neighbourhood during the cold winter months. Unfortunately, over the years, numerous stray cats in my neighbourhood have been found dead; frozen to death under decks and in people's backyard sheds where they seek shelter, and many are hit by speeding cars. These deaths could have been prevented if the City of Vaughan provided services to house these cats and to control the stray cat population. These cats suffer on a daily basis just trying to survive and are met with torturous, cruel, painful deaths. Monika and her team, through the TNMR program, are actively meeting the challenges the City of Vaughan is currently facing in trying to control the stray cat population, (and has been facing for approximately the past twenty seven (27) years since I have been a resident of Vaughan), and their efforts should be applauded instead of being met with disdain.

The City of Vaughan houses a high Catholic population, and it is in the decrees of the Catholic Church and scripture that practicing Catholics show mercy to all living things. Those that claim to be practicing Catholics but fail to show mercy to all living things I do not consider to be Catholics but consider to be heathens, and I strongly believe these such people should start recognizing themselves as such, instead of masking themselves as Catholics without practicing true Catholicism which I find insulting as a practicing Catholic, and a teacher in a Catholic school. I am both saddened and disgusted with these such members of my community, including those members on my City Council who have failed to show mercy to the stray cat community ever since I have been a resident of Vaughan for almost the past three decades.

According to Catholic scripture, Psalm 145:9 reads: The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

It is therefore logical and just that as a Catholic based community in the City of Vaughan, we must show mercy to these stray community cats whom are creatures of God and deserve our care and mercy in their suffering.

Respectfully,

Lydia Carroccia

Hon.BAsc, MScEd, OCT