

Public Comments at DeKalb Board of Commissioners Meeting, February 14, 2012

Good morning,

My name is Lynn Herron. I am a lifetime resident of DeKalb County and one of the founders and CEO of Friends of DeKalb Animals Inc (FODA), a nonprofit rescue group who works solely with DeKalb Animal Services. Since our beginning in 2010, we have vetted and transported 878 animals from DeKalb to rescue groups in the northeast. This group was started to save some of the companion animals that were put to death each month at DeKalb. In the fight to get county officials to do SOMETHING to make a difference for the animals-we had seen no progress. Therefore we created FODA

At the CEO's meeting at the Stonecrest Library last week, I presented an idea that I thought might be a workable solution to fund a new shelter in DeKalb from the \$230 million dollar bond referendum passed by the citizens of DeKalb in 2005. I have since been told that there is no way to use any of that money for a new shelter, even if it was constructed on currently owned green space property. It is shameful to see 7 new multi-million dollar libraries and then walk into DeKalb's animal shelter. I can't begin to tell you the shame I would feel if I were sitting in your seat knowing the deplorable conditions that animals live in at the DeKalb shelter.

This has been an issue for many years and promises were made and broken by the former administration and who knows how many others. It appears to me that not one of you on this board cares about the animals that die needlessly every week in this county. Cuts in the hours of the 1 vet at the shelter further magnify the lack of care and concern. Animals in DeKalb's care are just not important when it comes to spending the money entrusted to you by the citizens DeKalb.

There are 8 road officers to patrol the entire county, (and yes Dunwoody and Brookhaven, that includes you too) which is a public safety issue. Call for help when there is a stray in your neighborhood and see what the response time is. Is this because the employees of the shelter could care less? NO! It is because there are hardly any employees left at the shelter. 8 Road Officers for the entire county, 9 kennel staff to care for up to 400 animals and they are not allowed to work any overtime and the salaries paid to these people are shameful for the work that they do.

In closing, I am giving each of the Commissioners and the CEO a copy of a book called Redemption By Nathan Winograd...This book can empower DeKalb County to do what many believe is impossible, and that is to become part of the no kill revolution in animal care.

This revolution is coming. I am hoping and praying that DeKalb County will be in the forefront of this revolution and proud to be there instead of being dragged there kicking and screaming all the way...

Lynn Herron
Friends of DeKalb Animals, Inc