

**ALLAN S. COHEN, Ed. D.**  
POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20854

November 12, 2021

Dear Council Members,

I want to thank the Council for seeking public input for Bill 37-21 to establish an Advisory Committee for the Office of Animal Services. I support this legislation with two minor revisions which would ensure the participation of a representative of the Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being (MCPAW) and of Second Chance Wildlife Center, two integral partners of the Office of Animal Services.

The Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being (MCPAW) was created as the non-profit partner to the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC) and Second Chance Wildlife Center is the sole wildlife and rehabilitation center for Montgomery County. Therefore, I recommend that the legislation be amended to the following or similar language:

*I person designated by the Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-Being (MCPAW) or if MCPAW is no longer operating in the County, a similar organization operating in the County;*

*I person designated by the Second Chance Wildlife Center or if Second Chance is no longer operating in the County, a similar organization operating in the County;*

As a founder of MCPAW, I remain very committed to the animals in our County and the important role that animal welfare organizations play in serving our residents. The ability for the public to have a knowledgeable independent advisory body that is not part of, but who will partner with, the Office of Animal Services is very important so that the goal of the legislation to increase performance accountability can be accomplished. The ability for the Office of Animal Services to have insights from members of MCPAW and Second Chance along with representatives of other independent animal welfare groups and committed individuals will allow the County to be proactive in its mission to humanely care for and find forever homes for the animals in their care.

As one of the longest serving members of the Animal Matters Hearing Board and the founder of MCPAW, I stand ready to assist you and the new Independent Advisory Board.

Thank you.

Allan