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VIA FACSIMILE: (512) 943-1444

The Honorable James R. Wilson, Sheriff
Williamson County
508 S. Rock St.
Georgetown, TX 78626

RE: Animal Shelter Killing People's Pets

Dear Sheriff Wilson,

You may recall our conversation at your office a couple of weeks ago with Mr. Gilbert Angelle. Mr. Angelle owned a 2-year-old Lab, "Reba," who was euthanized by personnel at the WilCo Animal Shelter the day he came to pick her up. Reba was picked up by Animal Control on a Monday along with the Angelle's other dog, Toby. The Shelter records cross-index these two animals and their control numbers are sequential. On Wednesday, the Animal Control Officer contacted the Angelle family, having recognized Reba photo posted in the neighborhood, and notified the Shelter that the family had been notified that Reba was at the Shelter. The Shelter was closed the next day, Thursday. On Friday, after Mr. Angelle had been to the Shelter to retrieve the family's dogs, the Shelter euthanized Reba, while Mr. Angelle had left to obtain cash to pay the Shelter charges.

The Shelters Standard Operating Procedure says:

- A. **Animal Holding Period.** Stray animals without identification are held for a minimum of three (3) days not counting the day of impoundment or days closed to the public. Stray animals with identification are held for a minimum of seven (7) days. A reasonable effort will be made to hold Owner Surrendered animals a minimum of 24 hours. Un-weaned, critically ill, or seriously injured domestic animals may be euthanized prior to the conclusion of the holding period to prevent any additional suffering only with the recommendation of the Shelter Manager or a veterinarian.

Under this policy, Reba's "third day" was the day the Shelter staff euthanized her that morning. So the Shelter was not even following their own SOP.

Today, we were retained by Mr. Jose Louis Martinez, Jr., the owner of a less than one-year-old female pitbull, "Lady." Lady was picked up by Hutto Animal Control last Friday. The Shelter was closed on Monday. Tuesday was Lady's "third day." Tuesday, Mr. Martinez went

to the Shelter, was escorted to the cages and identified Lady, who was very happy to see him. Mr. Martinez and the Shelter staff returned to the reception area to complete the paperwork, which took about 20 minutes. While he was completing the paperwork, the Shelter staff euthanized Lady. The staff had determined that Lady was "unsocial," but that is not a basis in the SOP on which they would make an exception to the 3-day holding policy.

I don't know if you have completed your investigation of what happened to Reba, the Angelle's dog. The family and I would like to know what you found out. In our meeting with you, you seemed to really care about what happened there. Now Mr. Martinez would like to know if there is any basis on which he could file a criminal complaint against the Shelter for killing his dog.

I have been searching for any Williamson County elected official who gives a damn about this mess at the Shelter and will try to fix it. Are you the one?

Sincerely,
RIGGS & ALESHIRE



Bill Aleshire

Cc: Mr. Jose Martinez, Jr.
Mr. Gilbert Angelle
Client List