



News...

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER TONY AVELLA



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Press Release

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Avella's Humane Education Resolution Garners Strong Support from Animal Rights Groups

Yesterday, Council Member Tony Avella announced that he had invoked the "Sponsor's Privilege" rule of the City Council in order to have a public hearing on his Resolution 497/2006, (a.k.a. the "Heart Reso"), which would require the Department of Education (DOE) to fulfill their State mandated responsibility of instructing students on the humane treatment and protection of animals.

"This resolution is extremely important in the wake of the Michael Vick dog fighting case," stated Avella. "We must ensure that we are properly educating our children on the humane treatment and protection of animals. With 30 co-sponsors and overwhelming support from animal rights advocacy groups, I do not understand why this reso is not moving forward."

Resolution 497/2006 was originally introduced on September 13, 2006 and calls upon DOE to increase compliance with Section 809 of the New York State Education Law which requires instruction on the humane treatment and protection of animals, by issuing a memorandum to all New York City public schools that notifies them of the humane education mandate and by requiring all elementary school principals to direct their teachers to act in accordance with this requirement.

Meena Alagappan, Executive Director of Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers (HEART), added, "HEART greatly appreciates Council Member Avella's commitment to humane education and we are very pleased that 29 other Council Members have already co-sponsored Resolution 497. If adopted, this important resolution will increase compliance with New York State's humane education law in New York City schools, helping to cultivate compassion and respect in our children toward both animals and people."

"60 years have gone by since the enactment of New York State's humane education law. Still, few educators know about its existence. Resolution 497 will help to change this and benefit potentially millions of children and animals in the process. We at the League of Humane Voters of New York City are extremely grateful to Council Member Tony Avella for sponsoring this important resolution and for his commitment to humane education," concluded John Phillips, executive director of the League of Humane Voters of New York City (www.humanenyc.org).