



*Sent via email to council@billingsmt.gov*

Dear Council Member Aspenleider,

We write as members of the board of directors of Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, Inc. ("YVAS"). As you know, YVAS is dedicated to strengthening the human-animal bond by providing compassionate and high-quality care, education, and resources to the community. Our staff is working tirelessly to have the capacity to again provide shelter services for the City of Billings Animal Control Division. Under the leadership of Triniti Halverson, our eminently qualified and fearless executive director, we are confident YVAS will return to operations soon.

We are currently navigating the challenge of operating without a facility. We recognize and appreciate the support you and other council members have expressed in the past. We request you continue your support of YVAS. Specifically, please refrain from contacting our donors and other partners about the challenges presented by the incinerator incident. Our supporters do not want to be leveraged or pit between YVAS and City government.

On September 24, you contacted a major YVAS donor and demanded such donor influence YVAS decisions about the incinerator incident. We would greatly appreciate if such communications end immediately. Please remember YVAS donors allow the City to receive shelter and veterinary services at prices often at or below actual cost of the same.

If you have concerns or suggestions, we suggest they be raised through appropriate channels or in consultation with city legal staff. We have retained SULLIVAN MILLER LAW PLLC to advise YVAS and to communicate with the City. Please feel free to contact either Michelle Sullivan or Adrian Miller at (406) 605 3910.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued service to our community.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YELLOWSTONE VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER, INC.

JUSTIN HUTCHINSON, PRESIDENT

STEVE DURRETT, TREASURER

SHELLEY PEIRCE, SECRETARY

CLARENE WESTBERG, VICE PRESIDENT

ANDREA SCOTT

KATIE HUSO

TYLER WINK

HANNAH MARSHALL

FRANS ANDERSSON

Cc: Mayor Bill Cole (via email at coleb@billingsmt.gov); Council Member Kendra Shaw, Council Member Ed Gulick, Council Member Daniel Tidswell, Council Member Jennifer Owen, Council Member Roy Neese, Council Member Mike Boyett, Council Member Tom Rupsis, Council Member Bill Kennedy, and Council Member TJ Roger (via email at council@billingsmt.gov); Michelle Sullivan (Michelle.Sullivan@sullivanmiller.com); Adrian Miller (via email at Adrian.Miller@sullivanmiller.com); Triniti Halverson (via email at triniti.halverson@yvas.org).