



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Humane USA-Massachusetts Releases Endorsements for Boston City Council Candidates

November 4, 2011 (Boston, MA) –The State’s Animal Protection Political Action Committee, Humane USA-Massachusetts, made its endorsements for candidates for the Boston City Council in the November 8th election. Endorsements are based on a variety of animal issues including use of wild animals in circuses, designated off-leash recreation areas for dogs, animal control policies, as well as the candidates’ personal views on the treatment of animals. Based on this criteria, the preferred candidates are:

City Council At-Large

Felix G.Arroyo
Ayanna Pressley
John Connolly

District 2

Suzanne Lee

District 6

Matt O’Malley

The field of candidates is strong this year, according to Marge Peppercorn, co-Chair of Humane USA-Mass. “The strength of the field of candidates clearly reflects the increasing attention to the important role that animals play in our lives and our collective desire to see them treated humanely.” she said.

Peppercorn noted that animal protectionists form a large enough voting block in Mass. that their interests should be taken seriously by any candidate. These voters should be particularly happy with the current roster of endorsed candidates, said Peppercorn.

Current City Councillor **Felix Arroyo** is of particular note, taking the lead on animal protection since taking office in 2009 by forming an animal task force in the City to tackle a wide variety of issues, including reducing dog fighting, increasing dog licensing compliance and preventing dog bites.

On the issue of breed-specific legislation, which currently puts restrictions on certain breeds of dogs, **Arroyo** responded that his adopted pitbull mix is the sweetest dog he has ever had in his family. **Connolly** also stated he is willing to consider alternatives and that they can be difficult to enforce and applied unfairly, as did **Suzanne Lee**. **Pressley** emphasized the importance of dog owner responsibility.

Pressley has spoken out in favor of dog parks: “I would be particularly eager to support the development of dog parks [and] fenced dog runs which avoids confrontations between dog owners and other residents.” **Matt O’Malley** has also positioned himself as a leader on issues. He recently formed “Woof Roxbury,” and effort to explore a possible off-leash dog recreation space in the area of Millenium Park in West Roxbury.

District 2 Candidate **Suzanne Lee** impressed the PAC with her detailed answers and her commitment to making Boston a pet-friendly city. She used a humane program while in education recognizing the importance of teaching children proper pet care, animal welfare and humane treatment. She also recognized the important benefits pets can provide to children, including increased self-esteem, self-confidence and the development of compassion and empathy.

Endorsed candidates also noted concern about the use of wild animals in circuses.

In addition to publicizing the positions of candidates on animal welfare issues, Humane USA-MA seeks to donate to the campaigns of humane candidates and mobilizes volunteers to give grassroots support to favorable candidates.

About Humane USA-Massachusetts

Humane USA-Massachusetts (www.humanemass.org) was founded for the sole purpose of electing individuals to public office who care about the humane treatment of animals and defeating those who oppose it. Nonprofit groups are not permitted to support or oppose candidates. But as a Political Action Committee, Humane USA-Mass can engage in the important work of striving to elect public officials who will create a body of law that protects animals and shapes the way people interact with and treat animals.

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