



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645

Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, President
University of Michigan
Fleming Administration Building, 503 Thompson
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

May 1, 2008

Dear President Coleman,

Washtenaw County would like to express its unqualified support for the Humane Society of Huron Valley's plan to build a new facility on the property acquired from the University of Michigan (currently part of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens site). As you know, the current animal shelter is sorely outdated, and badly in need of expansion. Our community deserves and demands a shelter that can support the Humane Society's important mission of responsible care, cruelty prevention, and public education.

The County is cognizant of our statutory responsibility in the area of animal control. We have been grateful for the Humane Society's willing partnership in fulfilling this responsibility over the course of at least two decades. In recognition of this valued partnership, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution on August 1, 2007 (*attached*), authorizing two actions:

1. Advancing a contribution \$1,000,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to be deposited in the Humane Society's construction fund
2. Approving a \$6.5 million bond issuance to provide the necessary financing for the capital project; the Humane Society will be responsible for annual bond repayment.

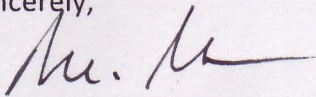
By separate action as part of the 2008/09 Budget Adoption process, the Board of Commissioners also committed to increasing the operational support provided to the Humane Society by \$100,000 each year through 2010 via a ten-year contract. This increase brings the total level of operational support to \$300,000 in 2008, \$400,000 in 2009, and \$500,000 in 2010. Thereafter through 2018, the County will honor the \$500,000 commitment with an additional cost-of-living increase every year. The County is pleased to provide this support, recognizing that it is in everyone's best interest to provide the necessary operational dollars to ensure appropriate maintenance of the new facility.

As both a practical and philosophical matter, the County depends on the Humane Society's professional experience and passion for animal welfare to carry out the County's statutory obligation for animal control. In fact, the Humane Society has consistently risen above and beyond this basic legal mandate. I believe that the community demands no less.

I respectfully urge the University of Michigan to join in this critical public-private initiative by following through on the sale of the Matthaei property to the Humane Society. I would gladly provide every assurance that the County shares the University's interest in maintaining the new animal shelter facility in its intended role in perpetuity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I might be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. E. Guenzel", written in a cursive style.

Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

cc: Tanya Hilgendorf, Executive Director, Humane Society of Huron Valley