ECLEG MAY08'12 AM10:50

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATOR HARDWICK & MILLS

Re: Supporting an Animal Abuse Registry in New York State

WHEREAS, New York State Senate Bill 6875 seeks to establish an animal abuse registry in New York State; and

WHEREAS, in his press release on the subject, primary sponsor Senator Mark Grisanti states that he seeks to establish a "registry for pet abusers in New York State"; and

WHEREAS, the New York State should be commended for addressing this long overdue legislation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed local law does not include mandated registration for an individual convicted of aggravated animal cruelty (AGM 353-A) and animal fighting (AGM 351); and

WHEREAS, perhaps the New York State law should consider these abuses; and

WHEREAS, further, the Senate Bill includes violations of AGM 362, which would include required registration of litterbugs who drop bottles in public places; and

WHEREAS, due to the seriousness of the registry, as primary sponsor Grisanti describes as akin to a sex abuse registry, the registry should not include those who in no way intended to injure animals, as may occur on a conviction of violating AGM 362; and

WHEREAS, the issue of animal abuse is serious and an animal abuse registry for abusers of companion animals would be an effective tool; and

WHEREAS, as such, the registry should be limited to abusers of companion animals and more effective measures should be researched for abusers of farm and wild animals; and

WHEREAS, because of the nature of the crimes involved, the registry should be implemented and managed by New York State and not relegated to a non-governmental agency, such as a local animal shelter or SPCA; and

WHEREAS, further, for the sake of consistency and ease of enforcement, any New York State legislation should pre-empt local animal abuse registry laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature goes on record as supporting an animal abuse registry in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo and the local delegation of the New York State Legislature.

Fiscal Impact: None.