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**DELEGATION
2015 FEBRUARY 23**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

My name is Alexandra Lezo and I am writing this letter to request an audience with the Mayor and Council with the purpose of appealing for the reclassification of pygmy goats as small domestic pets, such as dogs, which will allow them to live in certain R2 properties that meet specific guidelines. My interest in this matter stems from the fact that I have two small pygmy goats that have lived on my property since May 2014. The City of Burnaby has sent me a letter informing me that I am not in compliance with the zoning bylaw and will have to remove the pygmy goats from my property by March 3.

I acquired these pygmy goats in good faith after checking the Burnaby Zoning and animal bylaws where I did not find any information that would prohibit the keeping of goats. Goats are not on the list of prohibited animals and, therefore, I believed it would be legal for me to keep my pet pygmy goats. I also phoned and spoke with a clerk at City Hall and was informed that I should refer to the animal bylaw. I now understand that I did not interpret the bylaw correctly and spoke to the wrong department at City Hall. The reclassification of pet pygmy goats as domestic pets is the last chance we have to keep our pygmy goats that have become beloved in our family and neighborhood. We also believe that in addition to allowing our pygmy goats to stay, legalizing pet pygmy goats will be a positive step for Burnaby, as we will outline in our presentation to Mayor and Council.

The basis of our appeal is to allow the keeping of no more than two pet pygmy goats on R2 properties in Burnaby that meet specific guidelines, such as adequate space for the goats to exercise and shelter. Pygmy goats are comparable in all ways to other small animals, such as dogs and cats allowed in R2 areas. Therefore, we believe that pygmy goats should be reclassified as "small domestic animals" and allowed to live in R2 areas.

Our pygmy goats are named Toggy and Andy and they are wether goats, which means they have been castrated. They are well loved in the neighborhood due to their friendly nature. Female and wether goats do not have an offensive odor and are very tame and gentle. Pygmy goats make wonderful pets and we believe that they would be a great edition to families and neighborhoods in Burnaby with properties large enough to accommodate pygmy goats. We live next to a green belt with a large yard and lots of room for the pygmy goats to wander and play. At night, we lock them up in a two level shed constructed specifically for their needs which keeps them warm and safe from predators.

We have included the following documents for the consideration of the Mayor and Councillors:

Copied to:
City Manager
Dir. Finance
Chief Licence Inspector
Dir. Planning & Building

- 1) A petition including the names of signatures of our immediate neighbors on our block and the block behind who support Toggy and Andy and can vouch for the fact that they are good neighbors.
- 2) A petition from other member of the neighborhood who support Toggy and Andy and the legalization of small goats as pets in Burnaby.
- 3) An outline of the major points of our presentation to Mayor and Council.
- 4) Signed statements from our immediate neighbors explaining how our goats are a positive influence on the community and neighborhood.

We would also like to invite you to our home to visit our goats and view their living conditions.

Thank you for considering our appeal.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Lezo

Presentation on the legalization of Toggy and Andy and benefits of keeping pygmy goats in urban areas to the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Burnaby. Monday, February 23 2015.

There are many benefits to having pygmy goats as pets that we will outline in our presentation. Our presentation will address practical concerns regarding the keeping pygmy goats as well as the benefits of legalizing pygmy goats in urban areas. Our goal is to reclassify pet pygmy goats as small pets and allow them to live in certain R2 properties that meet specific requirements.

1. PRACTICAL CONCERNS regarding the keeping of pygmy goats

- Two pygmy goats require a minimum amount of yard space of approx..500-800 sq. feet in addition for room for shelter. This requirement would limit the amount of properties that would be able to house pygmy goats. Our space is approx. 1200 square feet for the goats.

2. Health and Safety Concerns

-Pygmy goats are extremely healthy animals if cared for properly. They can be vaccinated for many diseases and dewormed just as you would a dog or cat.

-Pygmy goats carry fewer diseases that are communicable to humans than dogs or cats and urban pygmy goats that are not in contact with any other farm animals are disease free. They can be vaccinated against rabies and will not catch any disease from other animals that live in cities the way a dog or cat that eat other animals might.

-Pygmy goats do not attract rats or other vermin. Pygmy goats eat hay and alfalfa which does not attract rats. I feed my pygmies some oatmeal on a daily basis and then return the feeders to a rat proof box. Owners may also opt not to feed the oatmeal. Pygmy goats sheds are easy to clean and do not attract rats as the door can be closed in the day and at night to prevent rats from potentially moving in.

-Pygmy goats do not attract coyotes any more than dogs, cats, raccoons and other small wild animals and may actually deter the presence of coyotes in yards which is good news for owners of other small pets that venture outdoors. I live in proximity to several coyote dens and this year is the first time in 10 years that coyotes have not been in my yard during mating season. I am able to provide further documentation on this subject upon request.

- Pygmy goats are extremely safe around children and will not bite or attack in any way. This is especially true of pet pygmy goats that have "imprinted" on humans and view them as part of the herd. Goats on farms are different in terms of behavior and cannot be compared to domestic pet goats which serve no agricultural function. In this sense, they are a good choice of pet for people who are afraid of dogs, have dog allergies, or do not have time to walk a dog off their property 2X per day. The saliva of pygmy goats is also cleaner than that of a dog due to the fact that pygmy goats do not clean their bodies with their mouths eat only hay and other vegetal matter.

3. Noise and other quality of life concerns

- Pygmy goats are generally quiet and contented animals. The only time they will make noise is when they see their human friends and this only lasts a few seconds-much less than some dogs barking. Pygmy goats are bred as pets and serve no agricultural function.

4. Proposal of a Trial period or Pilot project

We propose the implementation of a pilot project to test out the keeping of pet pygmy goats in Burnaby. During this period, bylaw guidelines, such as the licensing and minimum requirements for the keeping of pet pygmy goats would be developed. The only problem that owners of pygmy goats in urban areas face is not understanding how to care for pets properly as could be the case regardless of pet. Pygmy goats require as much or even less care than the average dog. In order to instill a greater degree of responsible pet ownership in Burnaby, I would propose that, as part of the pilot project, minimum requirements for pygmy goat keeping must be met before a license is issued. I would be happy to volunteer for this position for the city as well as pygmy goat educator and inspector of sites. Minimum requirements would include: 1) adequate space for goats to exercise 500-800 sq. feet minimum 2) adequate shelter in the form of a shed that can be closed in extreme weather 3) vaccinations are up to date 4) participation in a pygmy goat education seminar to be held on a monthly basis (1 time only).

5. Lastly, Pygmy Goats belong in Burnaby! Why we love goats and believe they would contribute to the quality of life of the Citizens of Burnaby!

- Pygmy goats are safe, approachable animals that have a calming, therapeutic effect on all they come into contact with.
- Pygmy goats are easy to maintain and clean. The urine and excrement of wether and female goats is almost odorless.
- Pygmy goats and goat food do not attract rats and other vermin.
- Pygmy goats do not attract predators such as coyotes more than dogs, cats and small wild animals and garbage. Pygmy goats may also deter the presence of coyotes in yards where they are housed (documentation available upon request).
- Pygmy goats are community builders. I'm amazed at how many people I have met in my neighborhood and how many people have made new friends meeting in front of my house to view the pygmy goats. As a community we need to focus on positive things we can do together.
- Pygmy goats create natural, chemical free compost that is safe to use on all plants.
- Pet pygmy goats bring people together and make excellent neighbors!

Recommendation:

That Council direct Staff to investigate the legalization and reclassification of pygmy goats as small domestic pets in Burnaby and implementation of a detailed bylaw pertaining to the licensing and

keeping of pygmy goats. We also request the legalization of Toggy and Andy based upon their unique circumstances.