



NEWS from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Lee Harris, Mayor

Vasco A. Smith, Jr., Administration Building
11th Floor, 160 North Main, Memphis, Tennessee 38103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR LEE HARRIS AND COUNTY COMMISSION
BUDGET CHAIRMAN MICHAEL WHALEY ANNOUNCE NEW SUPPORT FOR
LOW-COST VET CLINIC AND SPAY/ NEUTER SERVICES**

Shelby County Government leaders to make the announcement of the support for the Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County at a pet adoption awareness event.

- WHAT:** Announcement of Effort to Support Low-Cost Vet Clinic/ Pet Adoption Event
- WHEN:** 2:30 p.m., Monday, May 23, 2022
- WHERE:** Vasco A. Smith, Jr. Administration Building Lobby, 160 North Main Street, Memphis, TN, 38103

Shelby County, TN – This Monday, May 23, Shelby County Government leaders will gather to raise awareness around the importance of pet adoptions and announce a proposed \$250,000.00 grant to the Memphis and Shelby County Humane Society. During the May 18 County Commission Budget Committee meeting, the Resolution received unanimous support from Commissioners and is on the May 23 agenda for a final vote.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Memphis and Humane Society has seen requests to take in stray and unwanted animals skyrocket. In 2021 they saw their requests to take in stray and unwanted animals increase by 44%. In response, the Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County, with over \$500,000.00 in funding support from Shelby County Government, opened and



operated a low-cost vet clinic to offer critical vaccination services, spay and neuter surgeries, and wellness exams for pet owners who receive any kind of government assistance. This direct intervention meant more animals could stay in their loving homes and out of shelters or the streets

Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris: “The work of the Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County has resulted in thousands of fewer stray dogs and cats on the streets and a safer, healthier community for all of us. According to experts, one unneutered cat can lead to nearly 5000 offspring in seven years and a dog can produce over 500 offspring over the same time. We’re pleased to support their low-cost vet clinic, encourage pet adoptions, and continue to work together to improve our shared public health and safety.”

Shelby County Commission Budget Chairman Michael Whaley: “As a dog dad myself, I cannot imagine the gut-wrenching decision that families feel they must make when they surrender a pet. Our continued support of the Humane Society means fewer families have had to make that tough decision. It also means that we have fewer stray dogs and cats on the street which benefits all residents.”

Memphis and Shelby County Humane Society Executive Director Ellen Zahariadis: “The support of Mayor Lee Harris and the Shelby County Commission has been a lifeline to the pets and pet owners we serve. Additionally, we play a pivotal role in Shelby County’s public health and safety and provide support and relieve some of the burden municipal shelters in the area. Without this support, there would undoubtedly be thousands of pets on our streets instead of in a safe and loving home.”

As part of the partnership, the Memphis and Shelby County Humane Society are providing half-price adoption fees for all Shelby County Government employees through the month of June to encourage adoptions. In addition to the Monday, May 23rd adoption event in the County Administration building, they plan to host another adoption event at Shelby County Roads, Bridges, and Engineering on Friday, June 17.

(End of Release)