

DEC 1 2021

CITY CLERK

Edwards,Michelle

From: i»jennifer <ptl200@frontier.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Azar, George; DeBaun,Curtis; Boland,Tammy; Auler,Amy; Elliott,Earl; Loudermilk,Cheryl; Nation,Todd; Garrison,Neil; Crossen,Martha; outside email legal; outside email; Edwards,Michelle
Subject: *Ext!* Jennifer Ferency City Ordinance

****External Email - Think Before You Click****

- Helpdesk

Hello, my name is Jennifer Ferency. I am a small business owner who employees 20 people here in Terre Haute. I am writing to you because I am concerned about a potential ordinance that may come before the council. This ordinance would ban the sale of puppies by a pet store within the city limits. I would like to tell you about myself and my business before you consider this ordinance.

I own the Petland franchise here in Terre Haute. I have worked at the store since I was a junior in high school and was hired when the store first opened in 1989. It was a dream come true because of my love of animals. I graduated from Terre Haute North and then went on to ISU where I graduated with a bachelor's in business management. After graduating from ISU I decided to stay on with Petland in hopes of owning it someday. The previous owners of the store were Bob Williams, a veterinarian, and his wife Pat. I learned so much from both of them.

In 1995 I married Greg Ferency and in 2003 we had our twins, Payton and Nick. In 2006 Greg and I bought the store.

In my 15 years of ownership I have worked hard to improve my business. I am now proud to say I pick up 100% of all my puppies and I have been doing this for about 2 years. I am not sure if there is another store that does this. I am proud to say that I do. I visit my breeders, audit their practices and know where my puppies come from. I have taken employees, my kids and my veterinarians, Dr. Andy Pickering and Dr. Lori Jones, with me to see breeders. Dr Pickering is in my store on a weekly basis checking new puppies and over-seeing the health of the pets in my store. I have spoken to him about this potential ordinance and he is willing to speak with you on my behalf. I have pictures and videos I would be happy to share. I would be happy to have you visit my store or come with me to meet some breeders. The people I buy puppies from are some of the hardest working, kind and caring people I know. They work from sunup to sundown to provide for their families, take care of their homes and care for their four legged animals. Many of my breeders are Canine Care Certified. This certification goes above and beyond a USDA certification and was developed by Purdue University. Many of my breeders also have Orthopedic Foundation for Animals certification on their adult dogs. These certifications can not be done until the adult is 2 years old and certifies that the adult is free of certain hereditary conditions.

This proposed ordinance is meant to ban the sale of puppies from a retail location. It is fueled by animal-rights activists that don't live in this community as I do. They will claim that preventing me from selling puppies will close puppy mills. I believe this couldn't be further from the truth. I will explain why. I receive calls on a weekly basis from breeders that I have never met. I have a list of questions for them. The first on the list is, can I come see where you raise the puppies or your kennel. Many of them say no. They do not allow people in their kennel. For me the conversation is usually over at this point. Occasionally I do ask a few more questions because I want to know the answers. The next question is, "Who do you sell to?" Most of them answer that they do on-line sales. People buying those puppies never see where the pups come from. They only see a cute picture of the puppy, which is then shipped to the customer. The activists can't stop online buying so they go after stores like mine. I can't speak for every store, but I can speak for myself, my family, my ethics, and my love of all animals, not just puppies. I am doing things the right way to ensure I have healthy puppies from good breeders. All my puppies go home with a complementary vet visit at Wabash Valley Animal Hospital. This provides an opportunity for the puppies' health to be checked one more time by a licensed veterinarian. The vets at WVAH can speak to the good health of my puppies.

My store has been in this community for over 30 years, and I have worked there since the opening. Both of my kids had their first jobs there as have so many other local young people. I employ an average of 20 people. I give back to my community and have for years. My store supports local schools with donations and classroom visits with pets. I support nursing homes with pet visits, donations to Hospice of the Wabash Valley, local rescues and shelters, city parks, local churches, local sports teams, the Police and Fire Departments. Petland Terre Haute supports the local community.

You are probably aware that our family recently experienced a tragedy when Greg was killed in the line of duty. Greg and I were divorced but we were friends and the best parents we could be to Payton and Nick. I am now the soul support for Payton and Nick. I know they are legally adults, but they are truly still kids. They live at home with me, work and attend college. My business is what supports them.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I can be reached by phone at 812-236-0067 or my email PTL200@frontier.com.

Please let my small business stand on its own merit. Businesses like mine are the backbone of this city.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Ferency