



**VOTERS FOR  
ANIMAL RIGHTS**

**2019 SPECIAL ELECTION  
NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE**

**CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
RESPONSES**

Former Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito (Pg 2)  
Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez (Pg 7)  
Council Member Jumaane Williams (Pg 11)  
Council Member Rafael Espinal (Pg 15)  
Council Member Eric Ulrich (Pg 20)

Assembly Member Danny O'Donnell (Pg 24)  
Assembly Member Michael Blake (Pg 28)  
State Committee Member Ben Yee (Pg 32)  
Nomiki Konst (Pg 38)  
David Eisenbach (Pg 43)

**FORMER CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER**

**MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name

**Melissa Mark-Viverito**

Cell Phone

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Campaign Manager

**Sara Valenzuela**

Cell Phone

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

Party

**Fix the MTA**

Campaign Office Address

**N/A**

Campaign Website

**mmv.nyc**

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

**Yes. I am an owner of a pet. The humane treatment of animals is something that is important to me. I will make it a priority as a Public Advocate.**

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

**I did grow up with animals, and I currently have a cat, Cemi. I have always advocated for the adoption of animals. As Speaker of the City Council, I worked with the ASPCA to have an adoption fair at City Hall. As Speaker, I passed the following pieces of legislation:**

**Int 1668-2017 A Local Law to amend a local law for the year 2017 amending the administrative code of the city of New York relating to the prohibition of circus performances with wild or exotic animals, as proposed in introduction number 1233-A, in relation to extending the effective date thereof**

**M 0050-2014 Communication from the Mayor - "AN Act to amend chapter 115 of the laws of 1894 relating to the better protection of lost and strayed animals and for securing the rights of owners thereof, in relation to licensing of dogs in a certain city; to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to the animal population control fund; and to repeal certain provisions of Chapter 115 of the laws of 1894, relating to the better protection of lost or stray animals and for securing the rights of owners thereof, relating to licensing of dogs in a certain city". A.2046 / S.5048**

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website?

**We will take this into consideration.**

4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues?

**Yes. My office will work with animal advocates to support policies that protects them.**

## **Policy Positions**

### **1. Wildlife**

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

**YES**

### **2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores**

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

***Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES - I did that as Speaker and will continue to do so as Public Advocate.**

### **3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets**

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

***Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?*** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

#### 4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES**

#### 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

- A) ***Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?*** More info [here](#).
- B) ***Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?*** More info [here](#).

**YES and YES**

#### 6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?*** More info [here](#).

**YES**

#### 7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**



---

**CANDIDATE SIGNATURE**

1/18/19

**DATE**

**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**YDANIS RODRIGUEZ**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

### Candidate Name

Ydanis Rodriguez

### Cell Phone

[REDACTED]

### Email

[REDACTED]

### Campaign Manager

Seny Taveras

### Cell Phone

[REDACTED]

### Email

[REDACTED]

### Party

United for Immigrants (party line for special election), Democrat

### Campaign Office Address

65 Sherman Avenue, New York, NY 10034

### Campaign Website

YdanisRodriguez.nyc

## Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

Yes.

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

I have long supported the humane treatment of animals as a proponent for and advocate of bills that would strengthen animal rights. In 2014, I was one of the prime sponsors of Introduction 573, a Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the operation of horse drawn cabs and pedicabs, and to repeal subdivision c of section 20-374 of the administrative code of the city of New York, relating to licenses for additional horse-drawn cabs.

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website?

Yes.

4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues?

Yes.

## Policy Positions

### 1. Wildlife

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in



Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

**YES**

## **2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores**

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

***Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES**

## **3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets**

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

***Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?*** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

## **4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals**

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES**

## 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

- A) **Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?** More info [here](#).
- B) **Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?** More info [here](#).

**YES to both**

## 6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

**YES**

## 7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

Ydanis Rodriguez

1/31/19

---

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

DATE

**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**JUMAANE WILLIAMS**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name: **Jumaane Williams**

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Campaign Manager: **Trip Yang**

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Party: **Democrat**

Campaign Office Address: **1 N Metrotech, Brooklyn, NY 11203**

Campaign Website: **JumaaneWilliams.com**

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

**As someone who has been a public advocate through my professional career, I carried an obligation to keep issues alive in the public debate that would otherwise be cast aside once the media cycle moves on. Too often, animal rights are one of these issues. Of these issues, I am concerned with the persistence of "puppy mills", forcing bred animals for sale at the expense of promoting the rescue of stray and abandoned animals.**

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

**I have been a pescatarian from a young age, since I last attended a circus and saw the inhumane treatment of the animals put on display. Prior to my public service, I operated a vegan cafe and sandwich shop. Legislatively, I was most recently proud to vote in support of NYC legislation banning animals in circuses within the city limits and am interested in the initiative advanced by Brooklyn Borough President Adams to promote more meat-free options for both health and environmental advantages.**

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website? **YES**
4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues? **YES**

### Policy Positions

#### **1. Wildlife**

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

**Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?** More info [here](#).

**YES**

## **2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores**

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

**Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES**

## **3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets**

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

**Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

## **4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals**

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES**

## 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

- A) **Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?** More info [here](#).
- B) **Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes "Meatless Monday" in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?** More info [here](#).

**As I mentioned earlier, the Brooklyn Borough President's efforts have brought this to my attention and I am interested to learn more.**

## 6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

**YES**

## 7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

*Jumaane D. Williams*

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

1/18/19

DATE

**COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**RAFAEL ESPINAL**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name Rafael L Espinal Jr.

Cell Phone

Email

Campaign Manager Patrick Jordan

Cell Phone

Email

### Party Livable City

Campaign Office Address 52 Hale ave, Brooklyn NY 11208

Campaign Website [www.rafaelespinal.nyc](http://www.rafaelespinal.nyc)

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

I do believe promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority of the Public Advocate and any other elected official

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

Yes, I have been supportive of all the achievements as a city council member and personally.

Two years ago, I personally began shifting to a plant based diet. I have reduced my meat consumption by over 75%.

And yes, I grew up with dogs, hamsters, lizards and currently live with my Cat, Betty.

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website?

Yes

4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues?

Absolutely

### Policy Positions

#### 1. Wildlife

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their***



*natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?* More info [here](#).

**YES**

## **2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores**

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

*Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?* More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES**

## **3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets**

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

*Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?* Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

## **4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals**

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

*Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?* More info [here](#) and [here](#).

YES

#### 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

- A) **Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?** More info [here](#).
- B) **Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?** More info [here](#).

YES

#### 6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

YES

#### 7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

YES

Rafael L Espinal Jr. 1/22/19

---

**CANDIDATE SIGNATURE**

**DATE**

**COUNCIL MEMBER**

**ERIC ULRICH**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name

Cell Phone:

Email:

Eric Ulrich

Party: **Common Sense**

Campaign Website: **ericulrich.nyc**

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

**Yes**

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

**Yes, I have partnered with NYC Animal Care Centers to hold adoption events in my district.**

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website? **YES**
4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues? Yes and I pledged to do so at the start of my campaign. **YES**

### Policy Positions

#### **1. Wildlife**

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

**YES**

## 2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

***Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

YES

## 3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

***Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?*** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

YES

## 4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?*** More info here and here.

YES

## 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

- **Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?** More info [here](#).
- **Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?** More info [here](#).

**YES**

## 6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?*** More info [here](#).

**YES**

## 7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?*** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

ERIC ULRICH  
CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

2/21/19  
DATE

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**  
**DANNY O'DONNELL**



## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name

Cell Phone

Email

Danny O'Donnell

Campaign Manager

Cell Phone

Email

Doug Forand

Party

Equality for All (Democrat)

Campaign Office Address

2697 Broadway, New York, NY 10025

Campaign Website

Odonnell.nyc

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

Yes. The humane treatment of animals affects the lives of many New Yorkers, and particularly animals who cannot defend themselves. The NYC Public Advocates office will work to

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

My husband and I have had three adopted shelter dogs over the years. Our current dog, Roxie, was in a kill shelter in Alabama on her last day until we rescued her. Sadly, she was badly abused, but now has a loving home and is adored.

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website? Yes.
4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues? Yes.

### Policy Positions

#### **1. Wildlife**

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

**YES / NO**

## 2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

**Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES / NO**

## 3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

**Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES / NO**

## 4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES / NO**

## 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

- A) **Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?** More info [here](#).
- B) **Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural**

sustainability? More info [here](#).

**YES** / NO

#### **6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur**

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

**YES** / NO

#### **7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects**

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES** / NO

\_\_\_\_\_/s/ Danny O'Donnell\_\_\_\_\_ 1/19/19\_\_\_\_\_  
CANDIDATE SIGNATURE DATE

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**

**MICHAEL BLAKE**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name

Cell Phone

Email

Michael Blake

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Campaign Manager

Cell Phone

Email

Sabrina Philson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Party: Registered Democrat, but in non-partisan special election running under 'For the People' party

Campaign Office Address: N/A

Campaign Website: [blakefornyc.com](http://blakefornyc.com)

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

Absolutely, as a man of faith, I know that all life is sacred and should be protected. The Public Advocate is the watchdog over city agencies, and that includes agencies that impact the lives of animals who live in our city. I am a firm advocate for the humane treatment of animals and will use the powers of my office to protect animal rights.

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

I am a staunch supporter of animal rights. I was proud to co-sponsor a bill in the State Assembly that extended a four-year moratorium prohibiting the licensing of any new live animal slaughter markets close to residential buildings in New York City. I also grew up with pets, who I loved and miss to this day, my cat Misty and my fish James.

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website?

Yes.

4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues?

Yes.

### Policy Positions

#### 1. Wildlife

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

**YES** / NO

## 2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

***Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES** / NO

We must do more to support the adoption of shelter animals and it is essential that we crack down on puppy and kitty mills that force animals into inhumane conditions. I support transitioning towards no longer permitting the sale of animals in pet stores that do not come from shelter or rescue facilities or other humane sources. I would be happy to discuss this topic further and hope that Sen. Gianaris's bill can move forward.

## 3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

***Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?*** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES** / NO

I was proud to co-sponsor a similar bill in the State Assembly that extended a four-year moratorium prohibiting the licensing of any new live animal slaughter markets close to residential buildings in New York City.

## 4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES** / NO

Low income residents struggle to feed their families and I will work with partners to ensure food deserts have healthy, affordable food and it will be a priority to ensure that we balance animal rights and the ability of low-income families to afford decent food.

## 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

A) ***Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban***

*processed meats from being served in public schools?* More info [here](#).

I am committed to our public school students health and well being as well as the health and well being of animals. I have concerns about the quality of school meals, its local sourcing, and also the ability of students who have religious observances to be considered in food options. I am committed to working with the DOE, food justice advocates and the animal rights community on how to do that effectively.

- B) **Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?** More info [here](#).

**YES** / NO

#### **6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur**

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

**YES** / NO

I support transitioning towards a ban, and ensuring that small, women, and minority-owned businesses are able to incorporate ethical alternatives into their products and businesses.

#### **7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects**

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES** / NO



1/18/2019

---

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

DATE

**STATE COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**BENJAMIN YEE**



## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name: Benjamin Yee

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Campaign Manager: Al Benninghoff

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Party: Community Power Party

Campaign Office Address: 115 E. 9th St. #20, New York, NY 10003

Campaign Website: benjaminjee.com

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

Yes. The Public Advocate exists to fight not just for the people, but for a better society. How our society treats animals is a reflection of our values. Compassion and humanity should permeate everything we do with no aspect being beyond our attention.

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

Though not an elected official, I have been proponent of humane legislation such as sprinklers in pet stores and banning puppy mills. On these issues I have supported and partnered with organizations like NYCLASS, Goosewatch and the Manhattan Young Democrats Environment and Animal Rights Committee; the last of which I was a founding member.

A large part of my connection with animal rights issues comes from my family's adoption of an abandoned dog when I was child. Maggie was a dog which would never exist in a pet store - a mutt - but was the perfect addition to our home; half chow chow, a Chinese breed and half boxer of central European descent, just like my brother and me.

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website?

Yes.

4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues?

Yes.

## **Policy Positions**

### **1. Wildlife**

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

**YES / NO**

Yes. However, I believe this specific legislation may result in levying harsh penalties on workers who are sent to New York City, unaware of the local laws, to enrich the owners of shooting ranges. This would misdirect the proposed deterrent and punish those least capable of changing the practices in other States. As Public Advocate, I would explore an potential amendment to impose a much steeper fine, but on the company responsible for sending poachers to the city.

### **2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores**

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

***Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES / NO**

A large part of my connection with animal rights issues comes from my family's adoption of an abandoned dog when I was child. Maggie was a dog which would never existed in a pet store - a mutt - but was the perfect addition to our home; half chow chow, a Chinese breed, and half boxer of central European descent, just like my brother and me. New York City is strong because of its diversity of people, it would be well served by a pet population just as unique.

### **3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets**

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

***Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?*** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a

similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES / NO**

My process is always to consult the members of a community and hear what they have to say. Local communities should be the arbiters of their own destiny and the Public Advocate's office should facilitate their empowerment. That said, the neighborhoods of NYC are not city states, a Public Advocate must also work to bring communities together in collaboration to build a shared vision of New York that crosses lines on a map to allow for holistic planning.

Insofar as the specific issue of Animal Slaughter Markets, I do not believe any community would welcome these institutions if they knew the nature of what happened inside or the externalities they brought to the area. These are not farms with pastures, they are pens where those charged with caring for the animals know they are destined to die.

While ultimately I do not believe it is the Public Advocate's place to decide whether a community's interests are valid or override local residents, a good Public Advocate should provide the resources which will allow them to make the best choices. As Public Advocate, I propose to run three programs to do just that - Civics for All, Power for Communities and Justice for New Yorkers. In this case, the first two would use the office of the Public Advocate to properly inform any community faced with the decision of approving a slaughter market with the humanitarian, sanitary and public health facts of that decision. If given the opportunity to engage in decision making, I believe the residents of New York will agree that, in the modern day, our city does not need a preponderance of these sorts of establishments. If a community decides they truly want a slaughter market, it is a failure of community engagement, not of the zoning laws.

That said, I would support stronger laws regarding the treatment of animals in slaughter markets and their sanitary conditions. This would then have to be coupled with a much stronger enforcement regime. Ultimately, if slaughter markets are to continue to exist, we should ensure they are not a blight on New York City's humanitarian standing.

#### **4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals**

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES / NO**

The production of foie gras cannot be accomplished with abusing other living things. We cannot justify the ill-treatment of animals for our own pleasure. Similarly to the issue with slaughterhouses, New York City should maintain ethical standards for food production. If something cannot be done without inflicting long-term abuse, it shouldn't be done at all.

#### **5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools**

- A) ***Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?*** More info [here](#).
- B) ***Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural***

sustainability? More info [here](#).

**YES / NO**

A) Yes, processed foods have been demonstrated to be significantly less healthy and more carcinogenic than non-processed foods. We should upgrade what we feed our children.

B) Yes, it would even be a cool idea to encourage "Meatless Mondays" in schools. That will provide at least one low-cost substitute to all that processed meat.

## 6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

**YES / NO**

As with all the other businesses mentioned in this questionnaire, New York City should ensure that businesses here are ethical and responsible in the production of animal related products. It is virtually impossible to undertake the production of fur with abusing other living things. We cannot justify the ill-treatment of animals for our own pleasure. Additionally, the proliferation of viable and convincing substitutes, as well as significantly warmer materials, make its use virtually unnecessary.

## 7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES / NO**

Ultimately, hatching projects completely ignore the costs of giving birth to living animals. In rare instances schools will have plan for dealing with the hatchlings but, by and large, the responsibility for these new lives ends up with good samaritans who spend their own time and money to corral and save the birds, with non-profit organizations which have limited resources, or with the birds themselves. Either way, it's wrong for institutions to undertake programs knowing that

they will be pawning the costs of that project off on others.

Honestly this could probably be done just as well and a lot cheaper with Tamagotchi. Or maybe some seeds.



---

**CANDIDATE SIGNATURE**

1/17/19

**DATE**

**NOMIKI KONST**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name

Cell Phone:

Email:

Nomiki D. Konst

Campaign Manager

Cell Phone:

Email:

Dominique Shuminova

Party: Pay Folks More

Campaign Office Address: 31-09 Newtown Ave #309, Astoria, NY

Campaign Website: [nomikikonst.com](http://nomikikonst.com)

### Personal Initiatives

1. Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

Yes. The Public Advocate's job is to defend and represent those whose voices and political power has been stripped away while serving as a check on profit-driven abuses. Animals are among the most vulnerable in a system that is allowing laws and regulations to be written and influenced by the profit motive instead of humane values. We can't have a system that protects the rights and dignity of some people without also having a system that promotes the humane treatment of animals. Animal welfare should absolutely be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate.

2. Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

I proudly live a plant-based lifestyle and have previously adopted a shelter pet. In the past, I've also gone on animal rescue trips with an organization based in LA called "Hope For Paws" and have worked to support vegan restaurants and small businesses in New York City. I grew up with cats and dogs and in an animal friendly home. I have two elderly poodles that are not getting enough mommy time right now. I've even been known to chase poodles down the street to give them hugs and kisses.

3. Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website?

Yes. I will commit to putting an animal rights platform on my website, including my support for protecting New York Wildlife, creating a department of Animal Advocacy in NY Government, and building animal shelters in the Bronx and Queens.

4. Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues? Yes and I pledged to do so at the start of my campaign.

Yes.

## **Policy Positions**

### **1. Wildlife**

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

YES

### **2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores**

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

***Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

YES

### **3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets**

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into



their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

***Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?*** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**

#### **4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals**

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?***  
More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES**

#### **5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools**

- **Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?** More info [here](#).
- **Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?** More info [here](#).

**YES**

#### **6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur**

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are

known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?**  
More info [here](#).

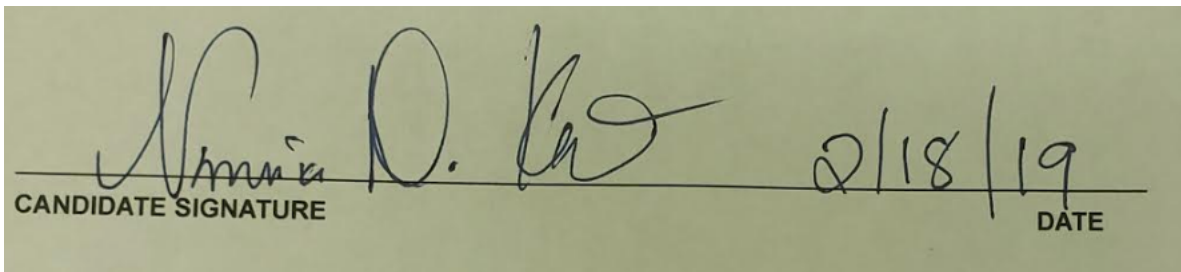
**YES**

### **7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects**

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES**



A photograph of a handwritten signature and date on a form. The signature is written in black ink and appears to be "Anna D. [unclear]". The date is written as "2/18/19". Below the signature line is the text "CANDIDATE SIGNATURE" and below the date line is the text "DATE".

**DAVID EISENBACH**

## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name

Cell Phone

Email

David Eisenbach

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Campaign Manager

Cell Phone

Email

Edwin Figueroa

[REDACTED]

Party registered Democrat but for special election -- Stop REBNY Party

Campaign Office Address 201 E12th PH12 , NY NY 10003

Campaign Website [www.publicadvocateeisenbach.com](http://www.publicadvocateeisenbach.com)

## Personal Initiatives

- Do you feel that promoting the humane treatment of animals should be a priority for the NYC Public Advocate?

Yes- I will appoint a Deputy Public Advocate for Animal Rights who has been an activist with experience dealing with this issue. Historically NYC has always been at the forefront of every major rights movement - Civil Rights, Women's Rights LGBTQ- but we have fallen behind the times regarding our treatment of animals. I want to change that.

I will advocate devoting more resources into the shelter system so that we can provide adequate time, awareness and access to improve our adoption rate. I want to limit the use of poisons for pest control and advocate for natural alternatives. I want to change the way the city government generally views animals as a threat to public health and safety and raise awareness about the benefits that animals (pets and feral) provide New Yorkers.

One of my priorities will be passing a law against puppy mills and helping to publicize the adoption system. I know that that a Public Advocate who joins his/her voice to the fight against the mills can tip the balance in the legislative process. I have lead the fight for the Small Business Jobs Survival Act which after 33 years is finally set to pass this year thanks to my leadership and strategy. I know how to combine advocacy with inside politics to pass legislation. I'll bring that same know-how to the ban on mills and other legislation that will protect animals.

Do you have any achievements to date on humane issues, e.g. supporting humane legislation, adopting a shelter pet, volunteering with an animal rescuing organization, supporting any national or local animal protection orgs, living a plant-based (vegan or vegetarian) lifestyle, etc.? Did you grow up with any pets or currently live with any pets?

My family had lots of pets growing up- parakeets, gerbils, cats, goldfish, and newts. I always understood the joy and love of having a pet and long understood the importance of pets for the emotional development children and emotional and physical health of adults. But about 10 years ago like many people I became more aware of the intelligence and emotions of animals themselves. Fairly late in life I began to see animals from a non-human centric perspective. Beyond their benefits to use as people, I began to understand their value as sentient beings on earth. That awareness has given me a whole new perspective on everything from the Central Park Carriages to zoos and circuses to the national food industry and the NYC Shelter system. I'm still learning and will continue to learn and apply my new perspective as Public Advocate.

- Will you include animal protection among the issues listed on your campaign website? Yes
- Will you commit to having a designated person in your office to handle animal issues? Yes and I pledged to do so at the start of my campaign.

## **Policy Positions**

### **1. Wildlife**

The Wild Bird Protection Act (Intro 1202 by CM Rivera) will protect NYC's wild birds from the cruel and illegal practice of netting them for use as live targets in shooting contests. Stealing wild birds such as pigeons, starlings, sparrows and robins involves luring them with bird seed in parks and on sidewalks and then violently snapping hundreds up at once in large mechanical nets, often resulting in painful injuries such as broken legs and wings. This illegal practice continues because our laws are not sufficient to deter this disturbing practice. Current regulations are mere violations which result in small fines, which is the cost of doing business for those who commit these acts in NYC to fuel the pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. This bill will simply make the current murky laws clearer and also increase the penalty to a misdemeanor punishable by fines up to \$1,000 and jail time up to one year.

***Would you support Intro 1202 that would help protect our urban wildlife from being cruelly taken from their natural homes by increasing penalties for illegally stealing birds?*** More info [here](#).

**YES / NO** --Yes i support Intro 1202

### **2. Companion Animals: Pet Stores**

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet store have repeatedly been found to have poor sanitation, infectious disease, animals overcrowded in cages with no exercise, lack of proper veterinary care, lack of protection from harsh weather conditions, and lack of adequate food and water. These conditions result in great suffering, and many sick offspring are sold to unaware consumers. With millions of homeless animals languishing in shelters (including 30,000 homeless pets in NYC), why should pet stores and breeders be allowed to profit off the backs of animals?

***Would you promote the adoption of shelter animals by supporting City Council legislation to ban the sale of animals in pet stores unless they come from a shelter or rescue?*** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

**YES / NO**

### 3. Quality of Life: Live Animal Slaughter Markets

There are approximately 80 slaughterhouses and live animal markets in NYC, in all five boroughs – more than any other U.S. city. In addition to brutally cruel treatment of the animals (tiny cages, no vet care, severely limited food and water), these storefront facilities pose a significant health and safety hazard to the community affecting the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Blood, feces, urine, dismembered body parts, and feathers are routinely found on our public sidewalks and streets due to the unsanitary conditions associated with storefront slaughterhouses. They are also a breeding ground for infectious diseases. Countless New Yorkers walk and roll strollers and wheelchairs through the filth every day, tracking bacteria and pathogens into their homes, around our city, and beyond. Many of these slaughterhouses are located close to schools and playgrounds. Additionally, when large animals such as cows, bulls, and goats escape (as routinely happens), it puts us all in danger of potentially fatal accidents.

***Would you support a zoning rule change by the City Planning Commission that would stop the proliferation of storefront slaughterhouses in NYC neighborhoods?*** Please note: This would not shut down any existing businesses; it would simply mean that no additional land would be zoned for new slaughterhouses or live animal markets. More info on a similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES / NO**

### 4. Animals Used For Food: Foie Gras and Force-Fed Animals

Foie Gras, or fatty liver, is produced with massive animal suffering. To enlarge the livers of ducks and geese, workers jam metal poles down the animals' throats in order to feed them up to four pounds of food per day. This process, known as "gavage", causes the birds' livers to swell ten times their normal size. Multiple undercover investigations of Hudson Valley Foie Gras (the only foie gras producer in New York) from organizations like Mercy For Animals and PETA show animal torture including death from force-feeding, ducks hyperventilating as their unnaturally large livers pressed against their lungs, birds with open, bleeding wounds left to suffer in tiny wire cages without proper veterinary care, and fully conscious ducks being shackled upside down and having their throats cut open. California has banned the sale of foie gras along with a dozen countries. Because of its cruelty, businesses like Costco, Safeway, Target, Whole Foods Market, and Wolfgang Puck have also refused to sell these products.

***Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?*** More info here and here.

**YES / NO**

### 5. Public Health: Healthier Choices In Public Schools

- ***Would you support Reso 238 (CM Cabrera) which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?*** More info [here](#).
- ***Would you support Reso 551 (CM Rosenthal) which recognizes 'Meatless Monday' in NYC: a national and international campaign that encourages people to enjoy meat-free meals on Mondays to improve their personal and public health, animal welfare, wildlife protection, and environmental and agricultural sustainability?*** More info [here](#).

**YES / NO | support res 238 and was at the press conference and public hearing in support of the ban on Processed meats**

**Yes I would support intro 551 and lend my voice as public advocate to raise awareness about Meatless Monday**

**6. Animals Used For Fashion: Fur**

Fur farms breed and confine animals in tiny, filthy cages where they suffer intense stress and unimaginable cruelty. They are beaten, bludgeoned, anally/vaginally electrocuted, and often skinned alive. Trapping animals in the wild is no better — animals are trapped in cruel leg hold traps where they can suffer for days in excruciating pain — starving, until the trapper returns to shoot or bludgeon them to death. Mother coyotes are known to attempt to chew off their own legs trying to break free, desperate to get back to their young pups. Many other animals are unintentionally caught and killed in these traps, including household pets. West Hollywood, Berkeley, and San Francisco have enacted bans on the sale of fur. Several countries such as Norway, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, and the U.K. have taken steps to close fur farms. With public awareness and innovative alternatives on the rise, popular designers such as Versace, Gucci, Michael Kors, BCBG Max Azria, Gap Inc., and The North Face have stopped using all animal fur. New York can get quite cold, but there is never an excuse to contribute to such suffering when so many viable, stylish, and warm ethical alternatives exist such as Vaute Couture, Hemp Hoodlamb, Wully Outerwear, Save The Duck and Noize.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would ban the sale of products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

**YES / NO**

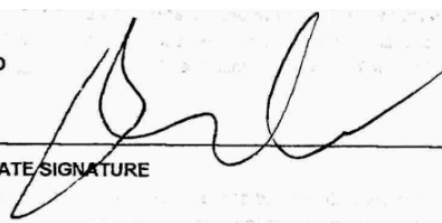
**7. Animals Used For Experimentation: School Hatching Projects**

We urge school teachers to replace bird-hatching projects with learning activities that teach life processes without the use of live animals. School classroom incubation and hatching projects of baby chicks and ducks is cruel and leads to the abandonment and death of countless young birds each year. When the cute baby birds grow up, schools realize that they have no plan for the adult birds. The birds are often abandoned in city parks where they cannot survive on their own, or dumped at local animal rescues who are already overburdened with unwanted animals. Hatching projects encourage the view that animals are disposable objects instead of requiring a lifetime of care and commitment. Additionally, hatching-project birds are deprived of a mother hen, which is why so many classroom chicks are sickly, dehydrated and crippled at birth.

**Would you support City Council legislation that would prohibit schools from using live baby chickens and ducks for classroom projects?** More info [here](#) and info on similar initiative at the state level [here](#).

**YES / NO**

YES / NO \_\_\_\_\_

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE  \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 2/1/17