

# Monique Chandler-Waterman



## Candidate Contact Information & Campaign Information

Candidate Name	Cell Phone	Email
Monique Chandler-Waterman		

Campaign Manager	Cell Phone	Email
Vaughn Mayers		

Special Election Party Name

A Vital Voice

Campaign Office Address

4111 Glenwood Road, Brooklyn, NY 11210

Campaign Website

[www.moniquefornyc.com](http://www.moniquefornyc.com)

### Personal Initiatives

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

**I do believe that part of my role as a Council Member will be to ensure the humane treatment of animals. Pets to so many are beloved members of the family, as such I believe it will be my duty as a Council Member to speak out on behalf of 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 rescue 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 do not currently own any pets, but my husband and I have made a deal with our children that for all the sacrifices they are making during my campaign, we will adopt a puppy following the election. We are all very excited to add another member to the Chandler-Waterman family.**

**I do strongly support efforts in the state legislature to pass legislation to ban puppy mills in New York. It is revolting to me that so many dogs are sentenced to a lifetime of living in a cramped cage.**

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

**yes**

### Policy Positions

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

The puppy and kitten mill/pet store connection create lives of misery from beginning to end. Breeding facilities and pet stores 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 cosponsor and vote for [Reso 798](#) introduced by Council Member Justin Brannan, in support of state legislation to ban the sale of cats, dogs, and rabbits in pet stores? More info [here](#) and [here](#).**

**YES**

## 2. 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 cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1476](#), introduced by Speaker Corey Johnson, that would ban the sale of new apparel products using real animal fur?** More info [here](#).

YES

## 3. 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 cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1378](#), introduced by Council Member Carlina Rivera, that would ban the sale of products from force-fed birds?** More info [here](#) and [here](#).

YES

## 4. Requiring Homeless Shelters Accommodate Companion Animals

Currently, shelters provided by or under contract with the Department of Homeless Services do not allow or accommodate pets. Individuals seeking shelter are forced to abandon their animals to be admitted, and thus, often choose to live on city streets. More info [here](#) and [here](#).

- A) **Would you cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1483](#), introduced by Council Member Steve Levin, which would require the Department of Homeless Services, in collaboration with the Department of Social Services, to develop a plan to accommodate pets of homeless individuals and families with the objective of providing pet-friendly shelters and identifying other temporary pet care arrangements that would allow homeless pet-owners to keep their pets.**
- B) **Would you cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1484](#), introduced by Council Member Steve Levin, which would require DHS to report, on a monthly basis, information on the placement or disposition of pets that belong to people who enter homeless shelters?**

YES and YES

## 5. Bird-Friendly Glass in New Building Construction

New York City is a vital ecological pit stop for millions of migratory birds. Tragically, between 90,000 and 230,000 birds die in building collisions just in New York City every year. Birds collide with buildings and die because of glass, which they don't typically perceive as a barrier. A window that's reflecting trees and sky looks like trees and sky, or they are attracted to something on the inside, and they fly into the glass at fatal speeds. These deaths can be prevented. [Read more.](#)

**Would you cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1482](#), introduced by Council Member Rafael Espinal, that would require 90 percent of all glass installed on newly constructed or altered buildings be treated to reduce bird strike fatalities?**

YES

## 6. Wildlife Trapping

The Wild Bird Protection Act 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 cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1202](#), introduced by Council Member Carlina Rivera, 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

## 7. Public Health: Humane Education and Healthier Choices In Public Schools

Section 809 of the New York State Education Law requires instruction in the "humane treatment and protection of animals ... in every elementary school under state control or supported wholly or partly by public money of the state." Although there is a penalty for non-compliance, the legislation has remained unenforced, and many educators and administrators are unaware of this statutory requirement.

- A) **Would you cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1465](#), by Council Member Danny Dromm, which would require the Department of Education to report on humane animal treatment instruction in public elementary schools?** More info [here](#).

YES

- B) **Would you cosponsor and vote for [Reso 379](#), by Council Member Helen 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

- C) **Would you cosponsor and vote for [Reso 238](#), by Council Member Fernando Cabrera, which calls on the NYC Department of Education to ban processed meats from being served in public schools?** More info [here](#).

YES

## 8. 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 cosponsor and vote for 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

## 9. Cat Declawing

People usually declaw a cat for convenience, in an attempt to protect furniture. Cats' claws play an important role in various aspects of their lives, for example, cats use their claws to assist in climbing and maintaining balance, to help them fully stretch, to relieve stress through kneading and to escape danger. Declawing, or onychectomy, involves the removal of all or most of the last bone of each of the toes of the front feet, and tendons, nerves and ligaments that allow for normal function of the paw are severed, resulting in intense and chronic pain and other serious medical issues. Declawing does fundamental damage to cats both physically and in behavioral ways. Declawed cats often develop behavioral problems that lead to their being surrendered to animal shelters. There are harmless ways to manage undesirable behavior through simple training and other established methods. [Read more](#).

***Would you cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1477](#), introduced by Council Member Justin Brannan, that would ban the practice of non-therapeutic and elective cat declawing?***

YES

## 10. Carriage Horses

Advocates have long called out the poor working and living conditions for horses used for NYC carriage rides. These horses are still forced to work in extreme weather conditions, including high heat and humidity. The temperature at street level in New York could be as much as 45 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the temperature recorded by the U.S. Weather Bureau, and the temperature of the ground where horses stand can reach 115 degrees. Currently, carriage horses are only prohibited from working when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees Fahrenheit outside, and there is no limit for high humidity.

***Would you cosponsor and vote for [Intro 1425](#), introduced by Council Member Keith Powers, which would take humidity into account and stop horses from working when the heat index, or "real feel" hits 90 degrees?***

YES

## 11. 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



April 30, 2019

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CANDIDATE SIGNATURE

DATE