



Dear Sparks City Council,

We are very sorry for the loss of Mayor Ron Smith, so dedicated to the City of Sparks and clearly a close friend with all of you. Our heartfelt condolences go out to you personally, to Ron's wife, family and friends and the Northern Nevada community to which he was so committed.

In our meetings with Council Members, one of the issues raised is concern over lawsuits. Puppy Mill Free Reno, Sparks and Washoe's sister site, Puppy Mill Free U.S., has been tracking this data since 2013.

There have been 14 lawsuits. **Each and every one of them has failed in court.** The vast majority were dismissed by the judge for lack of merit. A jurisdiction has few restrictions on the laws they can pass: an ordinance may not violate The Constitution or federal laws. Locals laws cannot be less strict than state law, but may be more so.

100% of the 14 Lawsuits Against Puppy Mill Store Bans Have Failed.

1. San Diego puppy store owner David Salinas sued individual members of the City Council, activists and organizations in 2014. The judge dismissed all but one charge. A month later, Mr. Salinas dropped the suit against the city when it was clear he was draining his coffers for a lost cause.

From: [Wendy Stolyarov](#)
 To: [City Clerk](#)
 Subject: Public Comment for 8/24/2020 Council Meeting
 Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 1:48:51 PM

Dear Sparks City Council,

I and the undersigned strongly urge the City of Sparks to follow Reno's example and pass Grady's Law, an ordinance banning the retail sale of dogs and cats within Sparks city limits.

We share a community, and what happens in one affects the other. Billy Howard at Puppy Mill Free Reno-Sparks has been working for years to get a municipal ordinance banning this kind of abuse passed in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County—and on July 29, 2020, he finally tasted the victory he has worked so hard for. The Reno City Council voted unanimously for Grady's Law, banning the retail sale of dogs and cats within Reno city limits. Retail sales of cats and dogs too often lead to overbreeding and animal abuse. Sparks can and must do better. I also strongly urge you to pass meaningful rental assistance as soon as possible, and please ensure that all rental assistance forms and services are available in Spanish as well as English.

Nigel Teekasingh		2020-08-11T00:13:36+00:00
ERIENNE B OVERLI		2020-08-11T00:54:24+00:00
Tanja Hayes		2020-08-11T04:08:08+00:00
Stevie Applewhite	A pet's life on the retail level is unjust. Promoting the sale of rabbits, cats, dogs, or other large mammal and/or reptiles is harmful to their lives as it often leads to the appalling practice of pet mills, inbreeding for "purebreds", unnecessary breeding or even incompatible breeding (small breeds and large breeds for example, or bulldog breeding where the mother either requires a seasection or left to add to the growing number of maternal mortality rates in their breed). Something our city should always be above and against. Both our city and the city of Reno have access to plenty of more than acceptable options such as adoption. Adoptions help keep adoptable animals off our streets, rehabilitate animals, foster, and even provide outlets for community participation.	2020-08-11T04:22:31+00:00
Tara D Connolly	Please ban for-profit pet stores in Sparks. Far too often these stores have deplorable conditions for animals and lead to massive breeding. We have more than enough animals in need of good loving homes in our often overpopulated shelters.	2020-08-11T04:39:36+00:00
Adrian Lowry		2020-08-11T15:01:23+00:00
Lori Esber		2020-08-11T21:52:56+00:00
William Howard	Puppy Mill Free Reno/Sparks/Washoe/Nevada has gathered 20,000 local hardcopy signatures and nearly 100 business endorsement to end the sales of dogs and cats in retail stores throughout the Truckee Meadows. Veterinarians, politicians, celebrities, news media, local shelters and rescued have all decried the treatment of animals in the Puppy Mill Store pipeline. From large-scale breeding operations to the bleak backrooms of puppy stores where dogs and cats die miserable deaths alone, in the dark, without treatment, suffering, the Northern Nevada community has long said: "Enough is enough!!"	2020-08-12T12:24:33+00:00
Deborah Woodcock	Please shut this down NO selling of any kind of animal!!! Thank you	2020-08-12T13:24:18+00:00
Rachel story	It's time, Sparks! Let's go!	2020-08-12T14:19:24+00:00
Marika Moore	Puppy mill stores should be banned. Please help I can't be a part of this movement to ban the sale of dogs and cats in retail stores. Thank you!	2020-08-12T14:23:35+00:00
Marcy Lienau	Please join in and do what is right and end the reprehensible suffering of animals caught up their entire lives in the Puppy Mill Store pipeline.	2020-08-12T15:22:25+00:00
Danella Hughes	There are so many animals in the shelters that need to be rescued. Stores like puppy love supports puppy mills where the parents are forced to breed continuously, live in filth and tiny cages, never know the life of a nice home and family, all for greed. You can look up national mill did rescue groups to see what these animals go through. Reno and Sparks can do better, team up with the humane society and shelters from CA for example with high kill rates and can make a difference, stop the abuse and unnecessary deaths from greed and vanity.	2020-08-12T16:07:17+00:00
Maral Brady	I am in favor of an ordinance to be enforced ASAP in Sparks, NV to end the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits. Please help stop the cycle of abuse towards defenseless animals.	2020-08-12T17:14:14+00:00

David Brady	Stop puppy mills in nevada, starting with Reno and sparks.	2020-08-13T05:34:01+00:00
Scott mcdonald	Please pass a ban like so many other city's and states have done.	2020-08-14T16:17:06+00:00
Karin Smith	Please, no sale of cats, dogs, etc in stores. All Puppy Mills should be closes.	2020-08-16T02:53:14+00:00
Doris Howard	I support my son's efforts to end animal cruelty by stopping sales in pet stores of dogs and cats. After my service in WW2 I settled in San Francisco and then in San Jose. Both those cities stopped selling puppy mill animals 20 or more years ago. Too bad we need an ordinance, but my son says there is a lot of consumer fraud as well. We need Sparks to do this. Please, for the animals. Doris Howard, Disabled WW2 Veteran.	2020-08-21T16:27:30+00:00
Brooks Rogers	Please, Sparks City Council, do the right thing here. Been following this issue for years and thought it was all taken care of until the news broke about the indictments and then found out there were still stores here. Enough is enough! End the sale of dogs and cats in those horrible places now! Thank you!	2020-08-21T16:30:00+00:00
Helen Parker	I don't know how many of these petitions I have to sign before we stop having to hear about these stores in the news. I signed the petition at a booth YEARS AGO! Please good people of Sparks, let's do the right thing now!	2020-08-21T16:32:33+00:00
Holly Graves	I'm hoping we can get pet stores banned like in Reno. Pet stores get their animals from puppy mills, which are notorious for their cruelty. Sparks is better than that and I don't want to see this type of store in my city. Thank you for you time.	2020-08-21T17:17:32+00:00
Ludivina Barragán	Do the right humane thing	2020-08-22T23:49:56+00:00
Debra Lee		2020-08-22T22:48:11+00:00
Marcy Lienau	Please do the right thing and ban the retail sale of animals in the City Sparks.	2020-08-22T19:44:34+00:00
Kimberly Siegel	Please outlaw the inhuman sale of dogs, puppies, cats, kittens, rabbits and ferrets in Northern Nevada , specifically Sparks. It has been proven that the puppies sold in these stores have been cultivated from puppy mills. We do not support the continued operation of these type of pet stores. As a citizen of Nevada I demand that these stores (Puppy Love) are shut down immediately. Kimberly Siegel	2020-08-22T04:13:26+00:00
Terri Baum	This is a no brainer... we need to do the right thing and protect these animals from these type of stores. The City of Sparks needs to really take a look at this.	2020-08-22T03:29:56+00:00
Heather Monaghan		2020-08-21T21:19:05+00:00
Tricia Way	Please shut down the Sparks Puppy Store!!!	2020-08-21T19:24:50+00:00
Krissy Katsimbras	Please stop the abuse of these beautiful fur-babies!	2020-08-21T19:16:58+00:00
Stephen		2020-08-21T17:25:34+00:00

Sincerely,
Wendy Stolyarov, Ward 1 Resident

2. Cook County, Illinois, surrounding Chicago, case dismissed by federal judge, May 2015
4. East Providence, Rhode Island, March 2015, dismissed.
5. Sunrise, Florida, June 2015, puppy mill store ban upheld.
6. Phoenix, Florida, July 2015, puppy mill store ban upheld.
7. Cook County, Illinois, August 2015, appeal dismissed.
8. New York City, October 2015, case dismissed.
9. Chicago, Illinois, November 2015, case dismissed.
10. East Providence, Rhode Island, December 2015, appeal dismissed.
11. Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, December 2015, dismissed under summary judgement.
12. Embattled New Jersey puppy store chain owner—and owner of a Missouri puppy mill—Vincent LoSacco, dropped his suit against the borough of Emerson, New Jersey in July, 2016.
13. Sarasota, Florida, Jun 2017, Petland loses final appeal to keep selling puppy mill dogs despite county ban.
14. Sep 2017, [Series of federal court rulings – the latest upholding a Chicago anti-puppy-mill law – affirm state, local efforts against animal cruelty](#)
15. Maryland, Aug 2019, [Maryland pet stores sue to block state ban on dog, cat sales](#). February, 2020: [Judge Upholds Maryland Ban on Pet Stores' Sale of Cats, Dogs](#) "A federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit that challenged Maryland's newly enacted ban on the sale of dogs and cats by retail pet stores."

Kindly,

Billy Howard, Founding Organizer
Marika Moore, Lead Organizer
René Johnson, Research
Puppy Mill Free Reno/Sparks/Washoe
We.Want@PuppyMillFreeSparks.com

From: [sanndeboer](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public comment on agenda item 9.7
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020 11:04:33 AM

Rezoning and approval of building of apartment complexes and housing developments should be determined in part by a adequate level of resources. Just this last week residents were asked to limit use of power due to overload and the WCSD noted concern having school in session due to lack of emergency responders. Transportation, schools, roads, water and other resources need to meet a certain level of sustainable availability prior to approval of more building. I would think tools for data driven measures of resources and development are available.

Susan DeBoer

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7 edge, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone