



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/12/2024

REQUESTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

PRESENTER: Jeanne Snider, Assistant City Attorney

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-69: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NORMAN ANIMAL WELFARE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, AWARDING THE 2024 NOMAN ANIMAL WELFARE VOLUNTEERISM AWARD.

BACKGROUND:

On May 23, 2016, the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee unanimously approved to establish the Norman Animal Welfare Volunteerism Award and named Erica Loftis as the inaugural recipient. The Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee seeks to promote pet adoption, education, citizen involvement and volunteer services for the Norman Animal Shelter and ensure all animals adopted at the Norman Animal Shelter are sprayed and neutered

DISCUSSION:

Sereta Wilson, former Ward 5 Councilmember, was selected by the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee as the 2024 recipient. Ms. Wilson has been the owner/operator of Annie's Ruff House and Executive Director of Annie's Rescue Foundation. Over the past 16 years, she has advocated for ordinance changes to better support the animals in the Norman community and championed the ordinance making it illegal to leave a dog tethered unsupervised outside. She has housed dogs after tornadoes and helped get adoptable dogs out of the community and into homes in other states. Ms. Wilson has provided temporary housing to animals belonging to people with housing issues or due to domestic violence and once drove a domestic violence victim to Salt Lake City to meet her parents. She has donated space to other rescues in her facility to bridge gaps in fosters. She has maintained a pet food pantry to feed dogs when pet owners are having a hard time making ends meet and donated vaccines, food, beds, vet care and maintained an angel fund for medical care. Ms. Wilson has realized that keeping dogs out of a shelter was key to lowering euthanization rates.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of the Norman Animal Welfare Oversight Committee that Sereta Wilson be recognized as the 2024 Volunteer of the Year.
