



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Mayor

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645
Phone (907) 861-8682 / Fax (907) 861-8669

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801

Via Email

February 9, 2024

Subject: Support for SB 163 - Protection of Animal Adoption and Foster Care Records

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

We are writing to express our full support for Senate Bill 163, "An Act relating to animal adoption and foster care records." As representatives of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, we believe this bill is crucial in safeguarding the privacy of our citizens while also encouraging participation in animal adoption and foster care programs.

Under the provisions of SB 163, personal identifying information of individuals who have adopted or are providing foster care for animals would be exempted from public records requests under Alaska's Public Records Act. This measure is essential in protecting the privacy and safety of our citizens who generously open their hearts and homes to animals in need.

Animal adoption and foster care play a vital role in our community, providing loving homes for homeless and abandoned animals, reducing overcrowding in shelters, and promoting responsible pet ownership. However, potential adopters and foster caregivers may be hesitant to participate if they fear their personal information could be made public. SB 163 addresses this concern by ensuring that the privacy of these individuals is upheld.

By safeguarding the confidentiality of adoption and foster care records, SB 163 will foster a more supportive environment for animal welfare initiatives in our Borough and across the State. Citizens can feel confident that their decision to adopt or foster an animal will not result in unwarranted intrusion into their personal lives.

Furthermore, this legislation has the potential to encourage more individuals to consider adopting and/or fostering animals from local shelters and animal rescue partners. Knowing that their privacy will be protected, more people may be inclined to open their homes to animals in need, ultimately benefiting both the animals and our community.

In conclusion, we urge the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to support SB 163 and ensure its passage into law. By safeguarding the privacy of individuals involved in animal adoption and foster care, we can create a more compassionate and supportive environment for both our citizens and our furry companions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Edna DeVries.

Edna DeVries
Mayor

Edna.DeVries@matsugov.us

A blue ink signature of Michael Brown.

Michael Brown
Borough Manager

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us