To: Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee Meeting January 5, 2023

From: Subcommittee

<u>Recommendation</u>

The Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee recommends that the City of London grant the London and Middlesex Humane Society's request for $3 million to help fund the construction of an animal "campus" at 1414 Dundas Street.

<u>Reasons for recommendation</u>

The London and Middlesex Humane Society has provided an important service to the City of London for over 120 years without funding from the City. The Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee recognizes that now is the time for the City to give back. A new, modern facility will be more than something nicer and more functional for the animals. It will reflect London's growth as a compassionate and thriving city.

Part of the Animal Welfare Community Advisory Committee's mandate is to promote public education and awareness programs. We support the Humane Society's plans to provide space for educating the public about animal care and accommodate visits from school groups and summer camps to learn about caring for animals.

From our animal welfare perspective, the Humane Society's shelter and adoption centre on Clarke Road is woefully outdated and inadequate. London's population has grown over the years, and the number of animals entering the Humane Society's door has increased proportionally. The site is too small for the number of animals cared for, the cat and dog areas are too close together, and the building itself is in constant need of basic repairs.

The new facility will be able to shelter twice the number of animals currently being housed. Most significantly, the new facility will also have a vet clinic. This means that instead of waiting for an appointment and then being driven to an outside clinic, animals will receive medical care immediately, and be ready for adoption sooner. The Humane Society plans to have the clinic offer low-cost veterinary care to the public, which will complement the city's low-income spay/neuter program.