

 **missy elliot**

November 13, 2002

The Honorable Bernard D. Griffin Sr.
Vice Mayor of Portsmouth
801 Crawford St.
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Dear Vice Mayor Griffin:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I was recently contacted by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), a nonprofit animal protection organization located in Hampton Roads. PETA is hoping that Portsmouth City Council will consider passing an important ordinance that would save the lives of countless dogs and cats in Portsmouth. I, along with PETA, hope that you'll sponsor this life-saving ordinance.

The ordinance, which is almost identical to one that has already been passed in Norfolk, would require shelters and rescue groups to spay or neuter cats and dogs before they are released to new homes, thereby preventing the births (and subsequent killing) of thousands of unwanted animals. I am writing today, as a Portsmouth native, in hopes that our city will soon become the second city in Virginia to pass such a spay/neuter ordinance.

The ordinance has two components that make it so effective. First, it requires that dogs and cats adopted from any humane society or animal shelter be sterilized prior to release. Second, it sets the age by which animals can be altered at 8 weeks (the minimum age at which they can be legally adopted).

Last year alone, the Portsmouth area shelters were forced to kill more than 2,308 cats and dogs. That number has got to change for the better, and I'm hopeful that you'll do everything you can to make that happen.

If you'd like to speak with someone further about this, please call Jennifer McClure at 757-622-7382, extension 1346. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Missy Elliott