

RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LOUISA DOUGLAS MCCUNE AND NAMING THE MAPS 4 ANIMAL SHELTER THE “OKLAHOMA CITY LOUISA MCCUNE ANIMAL WELFARE CENTER”

WHEREAS, Louisa Douglas McCune, a beloved philanthropy executive and magazine editor, passed away at the age of 54 on August 10, 2024, at her home in Oklahoma City; and

WHEREAS, at the time of her death, Louisa served as the Executive Director of the Kirkpatrick Foundation in Oklahoma City, where she passionately advocated for animal welfare, the arts and culture, education, environmental conservation, and historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, Louisa graduated from Enid High School in 1988. She briefly studied at Colorado Mountain College (1988-1989) and the University of Colorado, Boulder (1989-1990), before earning her bachelor’s degree from San Francisco State University in 1992; and

WHEREAS, before transitioning into philanthropy, Louisa enjoyed a successful career in journalism. She began as a general assignment reporter for her hometown newspaper, the *Enid News & Beagle*. A year later, she moved to New York City to join a prestigious internship program at *Harper’s Magazine*. Over the next few years, she wrote for several notable publications, including *Worth*, *George*, *New York*, *Green*, *Mirabella*, and *American Benefactor* magazines; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, at the age of 27, Louisa returned to Oklahoma as the editor-in-chief of *Oklahoma Today*, a magazine celebrating the culture, food, places, people, and history of Oklahoma. Under her leadership, the magazine earned three Society of Professional Journalists Best Magazine awards, two Magazine of the Year awards from the International Regional Magazine Association, and more than 250 other national and state-level awards; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Louisa was appointed as the Kirkpatrick Foundation’s Executive Director. As only the third person to hold this position in the foundation’s 69-year history, Louisa focused her attention in the areas of animal well-being and the arts; and

WHEREAS, under Louisa’s direction, the Foundation published *The Oklahoma Animal Study*, one of the first comprehensive studies of a geographic region and its animal population, in 2016. In 2018, the Foundation published *Love Can Be: A Literary Collection About Our Animals*, a book that Louisa co-edited. Also in 2018, Louisa oversaw the production of *Reporting Animal Cruelty*, a manual created for veterinarians to use when dealing with cases of animal cruelty. The Foundation also established two animal well-being initiatives for the state of Oklahoma, aimed to make Oklahoma “the safest and most humane place to be an animal by 2032” and to increase Oklahoma’s cat and dog “live release” rate to 90 percent by 2025; and

WHEREAS, while at the Kirkpatrick Foundation, Louisa was also the co-founder and editor-in-chief of *ArtDesk*, a quarterly publication showcasing contemporary art, including exhibitions, education, and promotion of creative literacy; and

WHEREAS, Louisa founded and directed the ANIMAL Conference of Ideas, Impact, and Inspiration; chaired the Philanthropy Southwest Annual Conference; and organized other animal well-being events. She served as the past board president of Animal Grantmakers and as a board member of Patrons OKC Animal Welfare. She also held leadership roles in many state and local organizations, including the Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, and the Rotary Club of Oklahoma City; and

WHEREAS, kind, elegant, witty, intelligent, fierce, and compassionate were words frequently used to describe Louisa; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, when the City Council of Oklahoma City urged its residents to “Dream Big” and to submit proposals for projects to be included in the MAPS 4 Program, Louisa’s advocacy was instrumental in securing the inclusion of a new animal shelter as a project; and

WHEREAS, Louisa’s dedication to improving animal welfare led to her appointment by Mayor David Holt to the MAPS 4 Neighborhoods Subcommittee on November 23, 2021: and

WHEREAS, the MAPS 4 Neighborhoods Subcommittee oversees the construction of four project categories funded by MAPS 4, including a new animal shelter for the intake, care, and adoption of animals in Oklahoma City; and

WHEREAS, the new, state-of-the-art animal shelter will be located at 2811 S.E. 29th Street, in close proximity to the existing Oklahoma City Animal Shelter. Encompassing more than 72,000 square feet of space, the new animal shelter will include larger, more comfortable common areas for the public, dedicated workspace and meeting areas for animal control officers, larger facilities for veterinary and lab services, and larger, more durable and public-friendly animal holding areas. In furtherance of improving humane outcome and live-release goals, the new animal shelter will also include park-like improvements to the surrounding land, which will provide additional ways for would-be pet owners to interact with their potential future pets; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Oklahoma City desires to recognize Louisa in a manner befitting her exceptional service and contributions to the Oklahoma City community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Oklahoma City hereby names the MAPS 4 animal shelter the “Oklahoma City Louisa McCune Animal Welfare Center.”

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council and signed by the Mayor of The City of Oklahoma City
this _____ day of _____, 2025.

THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Attest: (Seal)

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

REVIEWED for form and legality.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of two large, stylized circular loops connected by a horizontal line, with the letters 'ew' and 'ang' written in cursive between and after the loops respectively.

Assistant Municipal Counselor