

Please read below a powerful letter written by Macon City Council member, Rabbi Larry Schlesinger, to Representatives Tom McCall and Terry England, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Georgia House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee .

Rabbi Schlesinger wrote this poignant account to urge a ban on the use of the gas chamber at Macon City Animal Control. His testimony is based on a mass execution he chose to witness last month at the city pound so that he could fairly assess the chamber issue being considered by the Macon City Council.

February 17, 2008

Tom -

I never associated the sound of 'squealing' with dogs until I witnessed (in my role as a newly elected Macon city councilman) our Animal Control Office's carbon monoxide gassing of 17 dogs some two weeks ago.

The sounds of shrilled panic and desperation that I heard through the gas chamber's thick cinderblock walls clearly indicated to me that those canines were quite alert and conscious that something terribly out of the ordinary was happening to them. Their chorus of 'squealings' continues to haunt me, and as a result, I am thoroughly convinced that there is nothing at all 'humane' about this practice.

I would strongly urge you not to let House Bill 1060 purposely die in your committee; instead, please do the right and conscionable thing by doing your part to put an end to what is truly a cruel and rather regressive procedure that is still practiced in some lingering corners of this state.

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