



THE MEOW MISSION
PROACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL
THE HUMANE WAY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECOND 'JUSTICE FOR JAYCO CATS' PEACEFUL PROTEST TO BE HELD AUGUST 27TH ON SIX MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF CATS' BRUTAL KILLING

Elkhart, IN –

The Meow Mission will hold a peaceful protest on Wednesday, August 27, marking the six-month anniversary of the mutilation and killing of two live cats in a trash compactor by three workers at a Jayco RV plant in Middlebury.

The 'Justice for Jayco Cats' peaceful protest will be held outside the Elkhart County Prosecutor's Office, located at 301 S Main St, Elkhart, IN 46516 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Wednesday, August 27. The local nonprofit is inviting the public to speak up and attend the protest.

The Meow Mission expects another strong turnout for the protest. The first protest, held in June, brought together dozens of public members who stood outside Elkhart County Prosecutor Vicki Elaine Becker's Office protesting for two hours in soaring temperatures, to demand that animal cruelty charges be refilled. The protest was held in response to initial charges being dropped by Becker, citing a scrivener's error, shortly after the charges were made public and the Elkhart County RV titan refuted a quote in the police report.

Local and national advocates continue to call for Becker to refile the charges against the men. Advocates believe that by refusing to refile the charges, the prosecutor is ignoring the very Indiana laws that were put in place to protect the cats, while misinterpreting and using a part of the language to sweep the case under the rug, which only protects the men and the reputation of the RV giant, not the victims. "This whole situation remains egregious to us," said Meow Mission's President Jodi Aker. "Beyond the heinous actions of that day, that Ms. Becker, who swore an oath to uphold the law in Elkhart County, is hiding behind language that does not apply to this case, appalls us. She is blatantly ignoring the facts of the cruel, inhumane act perpetrated that day, which caused unimaginable suffering and gruesome deaths in that trash compactor."

Protest participants are encouraged to make signs and bring their voice on August 27. "We are stronger together," said Aker. "To see community members come together from all walks of life, with differing beliefs and interests, for this cause is powerful. Despite our differences, we stand united with the strong belief and conviction that violence against any living being, including animals, should never be tolerated and go unpunished."

The group remains committed to seeing that the men are held accountable for their admitted actions that day. The protest is only one of several actions they are currently undertaking. A vigil held last month brought dozens together to remember the two cats who lost their lives. A new advocacy group on Facebook called "Justice for Jayco Cats" along with several other national animal rights groups, including Animal Victory, Alley Cat Allies and the Animal Legal Defense Fund, are working on several fronts to see that justice is served in this case. "The fight is far from over," said Aker. "We are not backing down from this fight for justice."

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The Meow Mission is an all-volunteer nonprofit whose mission is to humanely and proactively reduce the free-roaming cat population through practicing Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR), providing low-cost spay/neuter services for cats throughout Michiana region. Since its founding in 2011, they have spay/neutered more than 13,000 area community cats.