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Statement in Support of a Humane, Effective Prospect Park Goose Management Plan

Thank you to the Prospect Park Alliance Community Committee for this opportunity to address this meeting.

I'm Patrick Kwan, New York state director for The Humane Society of the United States.

With 11 million members and supporters – or one in every 28 Americans – including over 217,000 New York City residents, The Humane Society of the United States is the largest animal protection organization in the nation. For over half a century, we have worked to build a more humane society by celebrating animals and confronting cruelty through our educational programs, advocacy campaigns, hands-on care of animals, and protection of wildlife habitats.

Like many who are in attendance here tonight, The Humane Society of the United States shares in the sadness and disappointment of this past summer's unacceptable slaughter of Prospect Park's geese by the USDA, under contract taken out by the City of New York and Port Authority. Many of the geese who were killed would never have been hatched if the city had adopted the recommendations we made to the Mayor's Office in 2009.

Slaughter programs are costly, inhumane, inappropriate, and ineffective. A comprehensive, humane, transparent and publicly supported goose management plan is sorely needed in the City of New York, and we are encouraged by the proposed plan presented here tonight for Prospect Park.

Communities across the country have had tremendous success in implementing humane goose management programs that include steps such as treating eggs so they don't hatch, modifying habitats so they don't attract geese, and using trained dogs to make geese move out of areas where they aren't wanted.

As part of our support for humane goose management at Prospect Park, The Humane Society of the United States will provide training in egg adulling techniques, education to the community on why it is detrimental to feed, and therefore attract, geese and other wildlife, consulting, and other resources to help implement and ensure success of the program.

The Humane Society of the United States commends the Prospect Park Alliance for convening the Prospect Park Wildlife Advisory Committee and we look forward to continuing our role as a committee member to address wildlife issues in the park. Thank you.

Patrick Kwan, New York State Director

The Humane Society of the United States

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