

May 14, 2026

Via Email: [bdoupe@pacga.org](mailto:bdoupe@pacga.org)  
Bill Doupe, Toombs Circuit District Attorney  
210 Railroad St  
Thomson, GA 30824

Re: Pursue Arrests and Criminal Charges for the Shooting and Killing of a Cat in  
Lincolnton, Georgia

Dear District Attorney Doupe,

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and its supporters in Georgia and in response to the April 17 incident of a cat shot and killed in the City of Lincolnton, Alley Cat Allies is writing to respectfully urge the arrest and filing of criminal charges against Lincolnton Mayor Mike McCombs, Lizzy Long, and the owner of the cat.

Based on a police report and body camera footage, Long appears to have violated Georgia laws against animal cruelty and illegally discharging a weapon by killing the cat with a shotgun. Mayor McCombs and the cat's owner appear to have aided and abetted such crimes.

Alley Cat Allies is the leading advocacy organization with a mission to protect and improve the lives of all cats and kittens. Since our founding in 1990, we have worked around the world in communities large and small to develop humane, evidence-based policies for cats and take strong action, including in court, against cruelty to cats.

According to a police report, Mayor McCombs requested that Lincolnton Police Officer Jason Shelton go to a Lincolnton property to shoot a cat who belonged to the residents. In a face-to-face meeting with the mayor, Officer Shelton stated that he "couldn't shoot the cat unless it was actively attacking someone."

Mayor McCombs then instructed Officer Shelton to "go to the house and give the cat owner [his] gun and let him shoot the cat." Officer Shelton refused, citing "incredible liability" for the city if he handed over his weapon to a civilian. Mayor McCombs' request is severely troubling and inappropriate, as it encourages a police officer to engage in unlawful conduct.

Officer Shelton subsequently went to the property and reiterated that he could not shoot the cat. However, Mayor McCombs arrived on the scene along with Long, his wife, who proceeded to actively seek out and kill the cat by discharging her shotgun.

Body camera footage shows that the cat did not die immediately and suffered significantly. In his report, Officer Shelton described that the cat "rolled around in pain, screaming and finally died."

Long's actions appear to violate multiple Georgia laws. Under GA. CODE ANN. § 16-12-4(b), "a person commits the offense of cruelty to animals when he or she: (1) causes physical pain, suffering, or death to an animal by any unjustifiable act or omission." Aggravated cruelty to animals applies when a person "maliciously causes the death of an animal." Additionally, Sec. 30-5 of the Lincoln City Ordinance states that "it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm...within the city, except by law enforcement officers in the line of duty."

Mayor McCombs and the cat owner aided and abetted these actions by actively encouraging them.

Beyond the apparent legal violations, the killing of this cat was unnecessary by every measure. Officer Shelton noted that while the owner alleged that the cat "attacked" him the day before the shooting, it was his professional opinion that the owner "fell on the cat and possibly hurt the animal, and the cat attacked him trying to get away." When Officer Shelton arrived on the scene, the cat was hiding behind the garage, terrified and posing no threat. There was absolutely no need for lethal action, and every humane option was available.

Based on available information, criminal charges should be filed against Mayor McCombs, Lizzy Long, and the cat's owner. We respectfully urge your office to pursue justice to the fullest extent of the law.

Alley Cat Allies offers support in bringing this case to a conclusion that achieves that transparency and justice. Please contact me at [cpedrolie@alleycat.org](mailto:cpedrolie@alleycat.org) or call 732-939-7948 regarding how we can offer support.

Sincerely,

Charlene Pedrolie  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
Alley Cat Allies