

National Law Enforcement Council

A project by animal wellness **action** & animal wellness **foundation**

Sept. 2, 2022

District Attorney Alvin Bragg
Manhattan District Attorney's Office
One Hogan Place
New York, NY 10013

Dear District Attorney Bragg:

As fellow members of law enforcement who believe that a modern prosecutor's duty is not merely to file and try cases, but to initiate cases where we protect the defenseless, we earnestly encourage you to treat matters of animal mistreatment and neglect with careful scrutiny. To that end, we underscore the importance of the investigation of the Aug. 10 event in which a licensed carriage horse operator put a sick, undernourished, and elderly horse in a terrible position, with the beleaguered animal collapsing on the streets of New York City. The driver compounded the mistreatment of the animal by striking him repeatedly, perhaps to goad the horse to continue to work even though he was entirely unfit to do so.

Further reports show the horse, named Ryder, was not only malnourished but suffered from other health maladies and that the horse's age had been misstated, perhaps deliberately.

We are co-chairs of the [National Law Enforcement Council](#) within the Center for a Humane Economy and Animal Wellness Action whose members include both active and retired elected prosecutors and attorneys general from across the nation, in jurisdictions both urban and rural.

We write to you today, to encourage you as our peer and the Manhattan District Attorney to seek and **ensure a comprehensive, forensic veterinary examination** of Ryder, both to find out what happened and whether a case for prosecution exists.

As experts of animal cruelty law, we are writing to you personally – and urgently – to ask that Ryder's investigation be given a high priority.

We are attaching an additional memo that our lawyers and animal-care specialists have prepared showing the legal and historical context of AML Section 353 that addresses not just Ryder's case, but the welfare and care of all 160 working carriage horses. This week our organization's email accounts continue to be flooded from New Yorkers and people who love your city and who have expressed to us their urgent concerns over the welfare of all horses held under the purview of the carriage horse business that is regulated and overseen by New York City Department of Health.

We look forward to working with you and your staff and providing whatever technical assistance we can in this and related cases.

Josh Marquis

*Director of Legal Affairs & Law Enforcement Animal Wellness Action
Co-Chair, National Law Enforcement Council, District Attorney Clatsop County (1994-2018)*

W.A. Drew Edmondson

Co-Chair, National Law Enforcement Council, Oklahoma Attorney General (1995-2011)