



**DATE:** April 1, 2026

**TO:** Colorado Springs City Council

**FROM:** Office of the City Attorney

**SUBJECT:** *Kristy Morgan v. City of Colorado Springs, Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, Sean Alexander Medina, Gina Seago, Thomas Alan Baccarella, Charlens N. Calloway, Nicole Michon, Aubrey Barton Travis Flores and Jennifer Rainey, Case No. 25-cv-03529*

This memorandum is to apprise you of the facts alleged in the above-referenced case as you consider the claims made against the officers involved.

#### **NATURE OF THE CASE**

Plaintiff, Kristy Morgan, brought this case in the United States District Court, District of Colorado, alleging that Lieutenant Seago, Officer Medina, Officer Baccarella, Officer Christiansen and Sergeant Calloway ("CSPD Officers") violated her rights pursuant to the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution. Plaintiff is also alleging other state and federal claims for Spoliation of Evidence, Malicious Prosecution, Veterinary Malpractice, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, and Conversion. Specifically, Plaintiff claims CSPD Officers worked with Animal Enforcement officers from the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, ("HSPPR") to seize and euthanize her pet goat and to detain and charge her with animal cruelty.

Plaintiff alleges that she called 911 and HSPPR on November 5, 2023, after finding her pet goat, who had been missing for four days, trapped under a building. Plaintiff claims that Officer Baccarella, Officer Christiansen and Sergeant Calloway responded along with HSPPR officers. According to Plaintiff, the goat's observable ailments were preexisting and not the product of negligent care. Even so, Plaintiff alleges that she was illegally detained while Officer Medina obtained a search warrant to seize the goat. Plaintiff accuses Officer Medina of participating in her detention along with Sergeant Calloway, Officer Baccarella, and Officer Christiansen. Plaintiff also claims that Officer Medina misrepresented his credentials in his affidavit. Plaintiff accuses Lieutenant Seago of directing and overseeing her detention despite knowing that CSPD lacked

jurisdiction to obtain a warrant or issue her a ticket. Plaintiff is seeking damages for loss of companionship, emotional distress, and loss of property. She is also seeking economic and punitive damages.

According to reports and body worn camera footage, on November 5, 2023, Officers Medina, Christiansen, Baccarella, and Sergeant Calloway were dispatched to 1012 West Costilla Street to assist the HSPPR in an ongoing animal cruelty investigation involving a tan and white goat. Lieutenant Seago did not respond to the call for service. However, she did discuss the situation over the phone with the officers on scene. The CSPD Officers on scene observed the goat to be limping and having a large wound on his head where one of his horns should have been. At the time, Officer Medina maintained an active commission from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. Because neither HSPPR's officers nor uncommission CSPD officers possessed the authority to enforce laws pertaining to livestock, Officer Medina began working on a search warrant to seize the goat. During Officer Medina's investigation, Officer Bacarella and Sergeant Calloway remained on scene with Plaintiff and HSPPR officers. After the warrant was approved by an El Paso County Judge, Officer Medina served it on Plaintiff and issued her a ticket for animal cruelty. HSPPR then took custody of the goat.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Civil Action Investigation Committee met on March 12, 2026, and recommends City Council acknowledge the City's obligation to represent the officers involved, as required by the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act and the Peace Officer's Liability Act. The officers were acting in the course and scope of their employment and in good faith. As usual, it is recommended that the City reserve the right to decline payment of any award of punitive damages.