

Final Exchange Between BBB/THLN/Me

Sent to BBB Austin by email on March 21, 2019; no email response---

You forwarded this message on 3/22/2019 12:37 AM.
This message was sent with High importance.

From: Charles Savoie [csavoie@tx.rr.com]
To: 'info@austin.bbb.org'
Cc:
Subject: WHAT????????????

Sent: Thu 3/21/2019 6:01

Is RICK BOSQUET running this BBB? If so, is he covering for THLN re “Truthful Materials?”

I found a 2018 item saying he’s an official at your office, and another item from 2014 that he was with the THLN! Media are likely to interpret this as risk for BIAS!

I have call apointment TOMORROW with Postal Inspection Service to get their views on potential MAIL FRAUD! It would be THLN Austin receiving checks by mail from people believing THLN “spearheaded” the 2013 drive to end gassing of Texas pets, and not mentioning to donors that they lobbied in 2011 to DEFEAT a measure banning gassing! If donors aren’t being told THLN’s entire record on this matter, I’d say absolutely it’s fund raising by deception! We shall see what the Postal Inspection Service has to say!

Here’s the entirety of my email message 3/22/2019---

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Also I am going to the regional office of my Texas State Senator! Meantime, the Internal Revenue Service is in receipt of a Form 13909 I filed, "Tax Exempt Organization Complaint," via their criteria, "organization involved in deceptive or improper fundraising practices," and a similar complaint filed electronically (screenshots retained) with the Office of the Texas Attorney General. Note that while neither the IRS nor the Texas AG Office is likely to post me as to any developments, this doesn't mean they're sitting on their hands! You'd be well advised to not sit on yours either!

Additionally I'm taking this to the Houston Press, to begin with, and media all around AUSTIN!

You MUST NOT claim THLN's materials are truthful! If authorities; the IRS, Texas AG Office, Postal Inspection Service, decide my view is correct, anyone continuing to maintain their fundraising materials are truthful, may be viewed as an accomplice! Refusing response won't make this matter go away!

I still have a certified mail receipt dated March 13 on an envelope I mailed to YOU regarding THLN's "materials." Austin is a two day delivery status from my area. Very odd it's still "in transit," but I'll have investigation started here if it isn't delivered by next mid-week!

Have a nice day!

March 13, 2018---

"In fact, we've gotten dozens of complaints in about 24 states, including Texas. So that company is definitely on our radar," said Rick Bousquet, Regional Director of the Better Business Bureau Heart of Texas.

**As of March 27, 2014 item in the Houston Press,
Rick Bosquet was executive director of Texas Humane
Legislation Network!**

**So since then he's an official at the same Better
Business Bureau I've asked, justifiably, to give a failing
grade to their criteria #15 on THLN, "Truthful Materials,"
how can their materials be truthful?**

His reputation score? 44.6%!

Rick Bousquet (Jacques), 48 - Arlington, TX | Background Report at ...
<https://www.mylife.com> > People Search > TX > Arlington > Rick Bousquet ▼
Rick Bousquet was born on 09/28/1970 and is 48 years old. Rick's Reputation Score is 2.23. Rick Bousquet currently lives in Arlington, TX; in the past Rick has ...

END Exhibit One (above)

START Exhibit Two (following) ---



BBB Corporate Office
1805 Rutherford Lane Ste 100
Austin, TX 78754
Phone: (512) 445-4748
Fax: (512) 445-2096
info@centraltx.bbb.org
www.bbb.org/central-texas

Friday, April 5, 2019

Charles Savoie
908 Glenda Dr
Bedford, TX 76022

Dear Charles Savoie:

This message is in regard to your complaint submitted on 3/29/2019 against Texas Humane Legislation Network. Your complaint was assigned ID 13474092.

The business has sent the BBB a message regarding this complaint, and we are passing it on to you. The contents of this message are below or attached. All responses will be copied to the company. Please respond within 6 calendar days or the complaint will be closed as assumed resolved. The text of your response may be publicly posted on the BBB Web Site (BBB reserves the right to not post in accordance with BBB policy). Please do not include any personally identifiable information in your response. By submitting your complaint, you are representing that it is a truthful account of your experience with the business. BBB may edit your complaint to protect privacy rights and to remove inappropriate language.

Regards,

Sherri Brauer

Resolutions Specialist

MESSAGE FROM BUSINESS:

Response to the Complaint.

Mr. Savoie refers to a bill, HB 3450, that was brought in 2011. It was not a "gas chamber" bill. It was an all-encompassing bill relating to public and private animal shelters. In fact, it was captioned "Relating to restrictions on the operations of public and private animal shelters, providing penalty." (See <https://bit.ly/2Ia2uJU>) THLN has always supported a ban on gas chambers used to euthanize shelter dogs and cats. In other words, THLN has never lobbied to continue the usage of compressed carbon monoxide for euthanasia. HB 3450, however, included other regulations relating to shelters that THLN had reservations regarding. The bill didn't pass.

To the contrary, of the information provided by the complainant, in 2013, the session following 2011, THLN drafted a bill to ban the use of carbon monoxide, i.e., the "gas chamber," as a method of euthanasia: HB 858 (See <https://bit.ly/2UfqVwS>), entitled "Relating to methods used by an animal shelter to euthanize a dog or cat." THLN secured a legislative sponsor, garnered support from the public and lawmakers, and it became law.

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Summary

THLN has never advocated for gas chamber euthanasia and to represent that our organization did or does is simply false.

End Exhibit B

Exhibit C below---

My final response to BBB/THLN---

THLN complaint

BBB Austin

1805 Rutherford Lane # 100

Austin Texas 78754

Complaint ID 13474092 (30957927)

April 9, 2019

Sherri Brauer/BBB---

From where I reside Austin is a two day delivery destination for Postal mail. To date I have not received the green signature card (see receipt image following) for the mailpiece I sent to you dated March 13, 2019. Accordingly, I will not combust more funds to certify this present mailpiece. To confirm I sent it to you, I will however remit the exact same contents to you by email so I'll have a record of it. OK??

7019 0140 0000 4993 0799

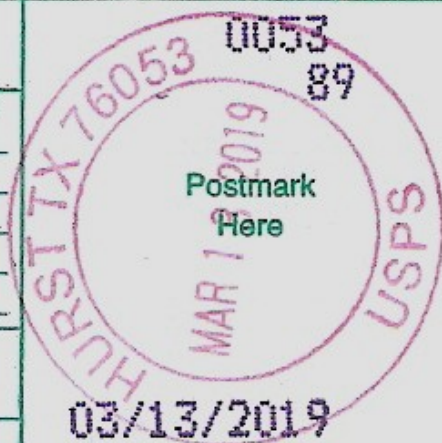
U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT
Domestic Mail Only

For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®.

AUSTIN, TX 78754

OFFICIAL USE

Certified Mail Fee	\$3.50
Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)	\$2.80
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic)	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$0.00
Postage	\$1.15
Total Postage and Fees	\$7.45



Sent To **BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU**
 Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. **1805 RUTHERFORD LANE STE 100**
 City, State, ZIP+4® **AUSTIN TEXAS 78754**

You and your obvious pals at THLN think I'm a retarded child in special education class that I can be wheeled to accept resolution of the issue based on THLN's failed exercise in splitting hairs! HB

3450 had as its first “plank” a banning of the gas chamber for euthanizing Texas shelter pets. The fact that several other planks were included in no way discounts that indeed this was a “gas chamber” bill---

<http://www.nokillhouston.org/legislation/texas-cap/>

THLN lobbied to defeat this civilized measure, and since then they very serpentinely aggrandize themselves by seizing credit for a measure they delayed by two years. They are saying that because the entire bill wasn't about gas chambers 100% exclusively, that therefore it wasn't a gas chamber bill; absurd stance in the eyes of any neutral party. Tell THAT to the 30,000 plus pets who were gassed thanks to THLN's “humane” lobbying campaign. Tell it to THLN's site visitors so they can make informed decision regarding their big throbbing hearts of love for pets in 2011; that animals gassed could have had relief 24 months sooner absent THLN's obstructionism. The demonstrable fact is THLN was “in” with high kill shelters that didn't care to change their ways; THLN attempts to present a label to the public to induce donations, namely the catchall buzzword “humane.” THLN doesn't want to be known as doing anything to maintain gassing, but they did. I see no way for them to use adroit phraseology to twist away from their 2011 lobby record. And the fact that last summer and fall they refused assistance to a canine mammary cancer educational bill I proposed is also profoundly telling as to their operations.

Various web bloggers including Nathan Winograd have pointed this out, so why hasn't THLN moved to file lawsuit against Winograd and other such bloggers? Where is THLN's court order enjoining such sites from a continuing web presence complaining that THLN lobbied to defeat the CAPA Act in 2011? People who read these blogs are unlikely afterwards to toss money to THLN! This complaint CANNOT be resolved through the BBB; furthermore, the BBB Austin is under the same "umbrella" as the BBB Fort Worth, and you of the BBB have steadfastly refused to comment on the matter of Rick Bousquet being a BBB official, probably in Fort Worth, and the sticky problem that he was previously to BBB, a THLN official for five years. I can't see how the BBB can be neutral considering RB's presence in the BBB Texas.

Now I notice as of April 9, 2019, Bousquet has done another bouncing ball act (he brilliant factotum eh) and has "migrated" to Amarillo. It remains disturbing nonetheless that he created linkage between THLN and BBB. I don't want to ascribe undue influence to my inquiries, but I do wonder if I had anything to do with his departure from BBB; possibly due to my March 21, 2019 email? Ha ha ha!

<http://www.newschannel10.com/2019/04/09/rick-bousquet-named-amarillo-botanical-gardens-executive-director/>

Only question about Texas HB 3450 to be settled is ---did THLN realize that by helping to defeat HB 3450, it would result in continuation for another two years of gassing Texas pets? Absolutely THLN knew that, and they lobbied to defeat it anyway, denying critically needed relief to tens of thousands of Texas shelter pets for 24 more months. THLN cannot be negotiated with, and neither can I be negotiated with. They have not moved to file lawsuit against Winograd and other such bloggers on this situation including several Texas based bloggers. It's because THLN knows it would backfire on them. I now take my concerns to the people of the State of Texas. THLN and I CANNOT reconcile. Meantime, I have forwarded my concerns as to THLN's fundraising tactics to the State Attorney General's office, the Internal Revenue Service Dallas and also to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, considering that THLN receives some checks via U.S. Mail and is misleading donors by not even stating what they did in the 2011 legislature session to delay relief for gassing of shelter pets by two years.

There were other measures in that bill that would have saved many companion animal lives and THLN shot it down. Since THLN did get their way with that defeated bill, why aren't they listing it in "Our Victories" then? Oh, they only rave about "victories" that induce people to toss money to them!

Disgracefully the THLN stated in its failed rebuttal to my complaint

“HB 3450 however included other regulations relating to shelters that THLN had reservations regarding.” We KNOW what those other proposed regulations consisted of. They were lifesaving measures that THLN lobbied against. If this goes to court THLN will be ruined for once and for all, and media will HAVE to publicize all! They ended their empty “ha-ha” response to me by saying “simply false” to representations that THLN ever lobbied for gassing; so? Why has THLN with its regiment of lawyers not filed suit against the bloggers? Anti-gassing measure was included in HB 3450 and THLN knows this and STILL lobbied against it!

THLN is a piece of work! How come THLN doesn't include at its “Our Victories” page that they defeated Texas House Bill 3450, the Texas Companion Animal Protection Act of 2011, and also state exactly what the bill's proposed regulations were? THLN had its way defeating that bill, why aren't they listing that bill's defeat in “Our Victories?” Well! If they did it would deflate their panhandling Texans for MONEY!

THLN is also an organization that is not in any hurry to see all possible pet related reforms passed into law, as they want to limit their agenda in any legislative cycle so that other items can be reserved for later fund raising appeals, so they can have excuse to remain in operation longer. Accordingly THLN refused my request for a warning notice on annual city shelter renewal licenses to state

that unspayed means more mammary cancer. THLN is much more concerned about maintaining annual income going forward than about enhancing pet health in the State of Texas. THLN's refusal to back my proposed bill says this is their stance. We have reached an impossible and irreconcilable impasse. Do not attempt any further negotiation with me as I now join the other bloggers complaining about THLN and their 2011 lobby maneuvering. This blog has been up for more than five years and THLN can't censor it by any means---<https://www.nathanwinograd.com/coward-thy-name-is-thln/>

1. Why did they oppose a bill which would have ended the cruel gas chamber?
2. Why did they oppose a bill which would have saved tens of thousands of animals who have an immediate place to go?
3. Why did they oppose a bill which would have given pit bulls, older animals, and other animals killed for arbitrary reasons a new chance at life? And,
4. Why did they oppose a bill which would have allowed animal lovers and taxpayers to know how and what shelters are doing with their tax and philanthropic dollars?

The answer was equally obvious: when it comes to the lives of animals, they just don't care. Rather than protect animals, as their name implies, they defend those who kill them. Rather than watchdogs, as their mission would indicate, they have become cheerleaders for regressive shelters. Rather than humane legislation, they protect the inhumane status quo.

Tragically, as No Kill advocates seek to pass progressive shelter reform legislation in communities and states throughout the country, time and again our fiercest opponents are organizations with names that allow them to masquerade as something they are not. Those of us who embrace a brighter future, those of us who seek to finally bring some accountability to a field that has historically lacked it, have found we must work to overcome the false perceptions the public, legislators, and the media have regarding these individuals and the groups they are associated with, simply because they have the names "humane" or "SPCA" or "animal control" in their titles: The Florida Animal Control Association, the Animal Law Coalition, the Mayor's Alliance for New York City Animals, the New York State Humane Association, and of course, the Texas Humane Legislation Network.

<https://www.nathanwinograd.com/tx-humane-legislation-group-fights-humane-legislation/>

“What’s in a name? The Texas Humane Legislation Network reveals not much, as an organization supposedly dedicated to “humane legislation” comes out in opposition to one of the most significant animal protection bills ever introduced in the state.”

As No Kill advocates rejoice and thousands upon thousands of animal lovers throughout Texas flood their legislators with calls of support for the [Texas Companion Animal Protection Act](#) which would ban the gas chamber, end convenience killing, mandate collaboration with rescue organizations, and much more, the THLN just released [their statement of opposition because they were not consulted on the bill](#).

Calling for shelters to continue gassing animals, to continue killing in the face of a rescue alternative, and more, THLN’s position reveals sour grapes, stunning hubris, and a serious case of misplaced priorities.

BBB Austin, ask the THLN zealots if the above is “simply false,” why haven’t they filed suit against the blog owner? And against Texas based blog owners on the same subject? Texas no longer has SLAPP suits! I say again, Texas no longer has SLAPP suits!

My perspective and shared by all reasonable Texans 1) If passed, would HB 3450 have ended gassing of Texas shelter pets two years sooner? (Yes) and 2) Did THLN lobby to defeat HB 3450? Yes THLN did lobby to defeat it. Attempted **legerdemain with byzantine**

wording won't change any of this history. They don't have enough wiles among the regiment of them to confuse any issues! These two points are all any Texas jury would care about as regards their fundraising methods. Therefore, THLN is falsely appropriating credit for ending the gassing of Texas shelter pets, and is misleading its contributors by not openly stating the contents of HB 3450 and that THLN lobbied to defeat it in 2011, at their SITE! THLN has openly claimed (IRS Form 990) that they work not only to pass legislation, but also to defeat legislation they DON'T LIKE! Deleting any web content is useless, we have all relevant screenshots.

Additionally, my certified mailpiece to BBB Austin, 7019 0140 0000 4993 0799 has STILL not been accepted for delivery by the Austin BBB, according to Postal Service online tracking! It should soon be returned to me marked "Delivery Refused." That evidence in hand will suggest BBB is most assuredly not neutral towards THLN.

Ending sentence of THLN's attempted denial was "THLN has never advocated for gas chamber euthanasia and to represent that our organization did or does is simply false."

Wow. What a piece of work this organization is. They make the above claim; but lobbied to block a measure that would have ended gassing two years earlier; then they assert it "was not a gas chamber bill," well it definitely was that in part. All the public is

likely to care about is that the bill would have ended gassing two years sooner, and that THLN lobbied to defeat it. The public will not consent to this attempted game of splitting hairs in this matter. THLN needs to wind down its affairs and shutter permanently. This cannot be arbitrated by anyone.

This is a textbook example of attempting to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. "Legislation is a complex process" they yammer. An attempt to flummox won't succeed.

However, if THLN will post under "Our Victories" (braggadocious enumeration) openly for all to see, the precise contents of Texas House Bill 3450 from spring 2011, and openly state they lobbied to defeat that bill and all its contents I might mull over the matter a second time; provided that THLN agrees to also to immediately aggressively pursue in the Legislature the annual mammary cancer/not spayed pet warning notice by city shelters and rescue/adoption groups at their websites, instead of squirreling it away for months, denying pets protection they NEED NOW, so THLN can resort to it in the future to maintain excuse to keep the MONEY flowing in. In a state of 28 million people, there had to be someone like me. Apparently it has fallen to me to be THLN's San Jacinto.

Charles Savoie

