



## **Proposal To Commissioner Michelle Long Spears**

**Proposal Title: Support of the Creature Corner Neighborhood at CompassionCon**

**Presented by: Compassionate Atlanta**

**Date: April 7, 2026**

**Request: \$10,000**

---

### **Overview**

**Building on the success and impact of CompassionCon 2024 and 2025, Compassionate Atlanta invites Commissioner Michelle Long Spears of DeKalb County District 2 to continue her invaluable support of animals through the support of the Creature Corner Neighborhood at CompassionCon 2026. Last year, your leadership was evident to the 1,400+ attendees and 100 vendors all interested in advancing the values of compassion, community, and care. We believe your continued support will deepen this impact in our county and beyond.**

### **About Creature Corner**

**In 2024, with the encouragement of your Save Our DeKalb Animals () leadership, we added the Creature Corner to our landscape at CompassionCon. Together we created this neighborhood to bring attention to the animals. It was all about snuggles, wags, and healing with our furry friends. We know it was successful from the volunteer smiles to the beautiful Lifeline dog who was adopted!**

**This neighborhood is now an indispensable and beloved part of CompassionCon. It is a vibrant space where attendees connect with animals and explore the sacred relationship between humans and all creatures.**

### **Strategic Alignment with the SoDA Initiative**

**The Creature Corner neighborhood aligns directly with the goals of the SoDA initiative, which envisions a compassionate community in which every animal is valued, protected, and loved. Together we will join you in:**

- Fostering collaboration among animal welfare groups, government, and citizens.
- Promoting innovative programming that blends education with healing.
- Driving practical solutions to local challenges in animal care and advocacy.
- Increasing visibility and engagement with SoDA's mission across DeKalb County.

## Funding Request: \$10,000

Requested funds will support the **Creature Corner Neighborhood** at **CompassionCon 2026** — a dedicated space uplifting animal welfare, civic engagement, and the sacred bond between humans and animals.

As part of an event that draws over **1,400+ guests and 100+ community vendors**, Creature Corner will feature interactive animal experiences, educational programming, and nonprofit engagement tied to DeKalb County's **Save Our DeKalb Animals (SoDA)** initiative.

## Proposed Collaboration Plan

### 1. Promotional Support

- CA will prominently feature and recognize the Office of Commissioner Long Spears:
  - On the CompassionCon website
  - Across social media platforms
  - On all printed event materials
  - During on-site event acknowledgements
- CA will promote all participating SoDA vendors on social media in the weeks leading up to CompassionCon, enhancing community awareness and engagement.
- CA will provide a social media packet to all vendors and the Commissioner's office for cross promotion.

### 2. Vendor Support & Fee Waivers

- CA will waive the standard \$250 vendor fee for all SoDA-affiliated participants in Creature Corner.
- This ensures accessibility and removes financial barriers for nonprofit and grassroots animal welfare groups.

### 3. Vendor Amenities

- CA will provide a 10 x 10 space with a 6ft table and two chairs for each registered Creature Corner vendor.
- CA will provide one complimentary parking space for each registered Creature Corner vendor, ensuring easy access to the event.

- CA volunteers will be available to assist with loading and unloading of vendor materials
- Vendors may bring pets available for adoption, as long as they are leashed or in a contained area

#### 4. SoDA Vendor Outreach

- The Office of Commissioner Long Spears will provide CA with a curated list of SoDA participants and animal welfare organizations who have participated and/or may be interested in participating as vendors at CompassionCon 2025.
- The Office will also facilitate email introductions between CA and the identified organizations to encourage participation and partnership.

By championing the Creature Corner neighborhood at CompassionCon, you affirm DeKalb County's role as a regional leader in building compassionate communities for all—humans and animals alike. Together, we can amplify the reach and impact of SoDA, inspire compassionate action, and nurture a culture of empathy across all corners of our community.

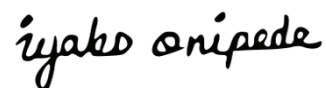
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Attached in an invoice to move the process forward.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to a more compassionate DeKalb.

With gratitude,



Leanne Rubenstein  
Co-Executive Director



Iyabo Onipede  
Co-Executive Director