

City of Ithaca Proclamation

Whereas, Dr. Lila Miller is a pioneer and leading voice in veterinary shelter medicine and companion animal welfare. She transformed the lives of countless pets, educated a generation of students, and paved the way for women of color in veterinary medicine; and

Whereas, Dr. Miller blazed a trail that broke barriers as she was the first Black American woman to graduate from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977; and

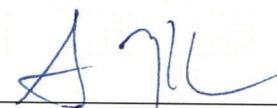
Whereas, Dr. Miller developed the first vet-written guidelines for shelter animal care, which are now used across the country, she wrote and taught the first course in shelter medicine in the US and co-founded the Association of Shelter Veterinarians (ASV). She spent 40 years trailblazing in the animal welfare field, a majority of her career working for the ASPCA as the head and director of the ASPCA's Brooklyn Clinic for a period of 15 years before transitioning to her roles as veterinary advisor, Vice President of Veterinary Outreach, followed by the Vice President of Shelter Medicine; and

Whereas, On July 10th she will be honored with a presentation of the [2021 Avanzino Leadership Award](#) at the ASPCA Cornell Maddie's Shelter Medicine Conference by [Maddie's Fund](#), a national family foundation established by Dave & Cheryl Duffield to revolutionize the status and well-being of companion animals. This award is named after Rich Avanzino, widely recognized as the father of the no-kill movement and the President of Maddie's Fund from 1999 – 2015,

Now, therefore, I, SVANTE L. MYRICK, Mayor of the City of Ithaca, do hereby proclaim July 10th, 2021 as:

Dr. Lila Miller Shelter Medicine Day In the City of Ithaca

In Witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Ithaca to be affixed to this proclamation the 7th day of July in the year 2021.


Svante L. Myrick, Mayor

