

The Connecticut General Assembly



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From Left: Annie Hornish, Executive Director of the Connecticut Chapter of the Humane Society of America, Bridgeport Chief of Police AJ Perez, State Representative Jack Hennessy

State Representative Jack Hennessy Recognizes Bridgeport Police Chief

Police Chief instrumental in relocation of community cats

BRIDGEPORT— **State Representative Jack Hennessy, D-Bridgeport**, formally recognized Bridgeport Chief of Police Armando “AJ” Perez for his compassionate efforts to relocate a colony of cats that were behind a Bridgeport nursing home.

The ceremony was held at the Bridgeport Police Department, 300 Congress Street, on Thursday, February 14.

Rep. Hennessy and Director of the Connecticut Chapter of the Humane Society of the United States, Annie Hornish, presented Chief Perez with awards commending his efforts to work alongside concerned Bridgeport residents to bring the cats to safety just before an impending cold weather event.

“Chief Perez was instrumental in the effort to relocate the cats. He was passionate about their welfare and worked with us to find them a safe space out of the snow and freezing temperatures. If left out, I don’t know what would have happened to them, and I am so happy we could all work together to find an alternative solution,” said **Rep. Hennessy**. “If we had left them, after knowing they were no longer being cared for, that would have been animal cruelty, and I’m happy they are safe now.”

The cats were formerly located at the [Bridgeport Health Care Center](#), 600 Bond Street, where employees had fed and provided shelter for them. However, the facility had a change in administration after bankruptcy proceedings, and new management ordered employees to stop caring for the cats.

“It was my privilege to assist Mr. White and Mr. Hennessy as well as others in the humane rescue of animals that were in jeopardy of starving or freezing due to the inclement weather. It’s very satisfying also, that because of our collective efforts, the animals were rescued and now ok,” said Perez.

The cats have been safely relocated and are being evaluated on their health and adoption status. Prior to their relocation, the cats were spayed or neutered, vaccinated and eartipped by a Trap, Neuter and Release program.

These programs seek to control the population of feral felines while maintaining the health and safety of the communities they inhabit. More information on these programs is available through the [Humane Society of the United States](#).

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