

## Animal Control Hearing

### Minutes

#### Call to Order

10:00 AM Meeting called to order on Thursday, **December 18, 2025** at City Hall -- Room 205, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

| Attendee Name          | Title                | Status  | Arrived |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|
| Melvin A. Edwards      | Ward 3 Councilor     | Present |         |
| Keith Fleming          | Police               | Present |         |
| Camile Nelson Campbell | Assistant City Clerk | Present |         |
| Megan Landry           | Board Member         | Present |         |
| Veronica Johns         | Board Member         | Absent  |         |

#### Approval of Minutes

**1. October 16, 2025 Minutes**

Read.

**Board Member Landry made a motion to accept the minutes the motion was seconded by Board Member Edwards.**

**Roll call votes on the motion**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Board member Edwards         | Yes    |
| Board member Fleming         | Yes    |
| Board member Johns           | Absent |
| Board member Landry          | Yes    |
| Board member Nelson Campbell | yes    |

**Motion passed by roll call votes.**

**Minutes approved.**

#### Dog Hearing

**2. A Dangerous Dog Hearing for a dog named Phoebe Owned by Mary Luz Ramos at 58 Fremont St.**

Read.

Renee Robichaud, Animal Control Officer for Thomas J. O'Connor (TJO) and Adoption Center read their reports.

**Complainant**

**Respondent**

**Rebuttal**

None

**Board Member Edwards made a motion No Findings the motion was seconded by Board Member Fleming.**

**Roll call votes on the motion**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Board member Edwards         | Yes    |
| Board member Fleming         | Yes    |
| Board member Johns           | Absent |
| Board member Landry          | Yes    |
| Board member Nelson Campbell | Yes    |

**Motion passed by roll call votes.**

**3. A Nuisance Dog Hearing for a Dog named Callie and Bella at 58 Cherrelyn St Owned by Tyran Daniels who lives at 59 Stebbins Street.**

Maria Ramos called Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and asked to drop the complaint.

**4. A Dangerous Dog Hearing for Two Dogs Named Orion and Ace Owned by Shavon Diaz at 42 Cornell St**

Read.

Renee Robichaud, Animal Control Officer for Thomas J. O'Connor (TJO) and Adoption Center read their reports.

**Complainant**

Mshae Hudson, the owner of Willow. She stated the night before the incident she saw the two (2) huskie's dogs on St James Avenue. The next morning, she received a phone call stating Willow has been found.

Mary Taylor said she Agrees with Mshae Testimony.

**Respondent**

Shavone Diaz did not appear.

**Rebuttal**

None

**Board Member Edwards made a motion to deem the dogs named Orion and Ace dangerous dogs the motion was seconded by Board Member Fleming.**

**Roll call votes on the motion**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Board member Edwards         | Yes    |
| Board member Fleming         | Yes    |
| Board member Johns           | Absent |
| Board member Landry          | Yes    |
| Board member Nelson Campbell | Yes    |

**Motion passed by roll call votes.**

**After review of the hearing testimonies and the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center reports, the Committee has imposed the following conditions on Orion and Ace:**

1. That both dogs be humanely restrained, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;
2. That the dogs be confined to the premises of the owner of the dogs; provided, however, that "confined" shall mean securely confined indoors or confined outdoors in a securely enclosed and locked pen or dog run area upon the premises of the owner; provided however, that such confinement shall comply with c. 110 § 8 of the code, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;
3. That whenever the dogs are removed from the premises of the owner, the dogs shall be securely and humanely muzzled and restrained with a leash having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and not exceeding three feet in length, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;

4. That the dogs shall be surgically sterilized, microchipped, and registered to the City, with all costs associated with these services to be borne by the owner, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code the Code;

5. That the owner construct, within two weeks from the date of decision, a secure enclosure (as defined in c. 110 § 1 of the Code) to house the dogs when they are in the owner's yard in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code. The Advisory and Hearing Committee may order that, during the construction period, the dogs be publicly impounded at an animal shelter or a private veterinary hospital until the secure enclosure is constructed. The effectiveness of the secure enclosure shall be subject to approval and periodic inspections by an Animal Control Officer, as deemed necessary. The fee for said inspection shall be \$75. If the owner is found in violation of the secure enclosure requirements, immediate public impoundment of the dogs shall be done by the animal control center during the time the violation continues to exist, and the owner shall bear all costs for such public impoundment. The fine for such violation shall be \$200 per animal, as described in c. 110 § 4 of the Code;

6. That ownership of the dogs may not be transferred unless the transfer of ownership is to an adult residing within the same residence, and said dogs shall remain housed solely at that residence, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;

7. That, where the owner of the dogs fails to appear at the hearing in front of the Advisory and Hearing Committee, and the dogs are declared dangerous dogs, the dogs shall be impounded in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code, until all conditions outlined in this decision have been met; and

8. That the owner or keeper of the dogs provide proof of insurance in an amount not less than \$100,000 insuring the owner or keeper against any claim, loss, damage or injury to persons, domestic animals or property resulting from the acts, whether intentional or unintentional, of the dogs or proof that reasonable efforts were made to obtain such insurance if a policy has not been issued; provided, however, that if a policy of insurance has been issued, the owner or keeper shall produce such policy upon request of the hearing authority or a justice of the district court; and provided further, that if a policy has not been issued the owner or keeper shall produce proof of efforts to obtain such insurance, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) c. 140 § 157(c)(iv) and c. 110 § 10 of the Code; and

#### **Roll call votes on the Conditions**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Board member Edwards         | Yes    |
| Board member Fleming         | Yes    |
| Board member Johns           | Absent |
| Board member Landry          | Yes    |
| Board member Nelson Campbell | Yes    |

**5. A Dangerous Dog Hearing for Dog named White Boy/Prince Owned by Edwin Gonzales at 40 Adams St**

Read.

Renee Robichaud, Animal Control Officer for Thomas J. O'Connor (TJO) and Adoption Center read their reports.

**Complainant**

Amy Hendrickson stated she's the owner of Rex. On November 16<sup>th</sup> she was taking her dog out. Mr. Gonzalez is known to have his dogs off the leashes every day. Mr. Hendrickson said she took her dog outside at 7:40 when the dog came charging after her dog and they get into a fight, Rex had cuts all over his legs and paws, his face got really torn up. She called multiple times because she's sick of this, it's obnoxious and she don't think it's appropriate for his dog to roam without any responsibility.

**Respondent**

Edwin Gonzalez did not appear

**Rebuttal**

None

**Board Member Edwards made a motion to deem the dog named White Boy a dangerous dog the motion was seconded by Board Member Fleming.**

1. That the dog be humanely restrained, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;
2. That the dog be confined to the premises of the owner of the dog; provided, however, that "confined" shall mean securely confined indoors or confined outdoors in a securely enclosed and locked pen or dog run area upon the premises of the owner; provided however, that such confinement shall comply with c. 110 § 8 of the code, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;
3. That whenever the dog is removed from the premises of the owner, the dog shall be securely and humanely muzzled and restrained with a leash having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and not exceeding three feet in length, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;
4. That the animal shall be surgically sterilized, microchipped, and registered to the City, with all costs associated with these services to be borne by the owner, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code the Code;
5. That the owner construct, within two weeks from the date of decision, a secure enclosure (as defined in c. 110 § 1 of the Code) to house the dog when they are in the owner's yard in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code. The Advisory and Hearing Committee may order that,

during the construction period, the dogs be publicly impounded at an animal shelter or a private veterinary hospital until the secure enclosure is constructed. The effectiveness of the secure enclosure shall be subject to approval and periodic inspections by an Animal Control Officer, as deemed necessary. The fee for said inspection shall be \$75. If the owner is found in violation of the secure enclosure requirements, immediate public impoundment of the dogs shall be done by the animal control center during the time the violation continues to exist, and the owner shall bear all costs for such public impoundment. The fine for such violation shall be \$200 per animal, as described in c. 110 § 4 of the Code;

6. That ownership of the dog may not be transferred unless the transfer of ownership is to an adult residing within the same residence, and said dog shall remain housed solely at that residence, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code;

7. That, where the owner of the dog fails to appear at the hearing in front of the Advisory and Hearing Committee, and the dog was declared dangerous dog, the dog shall be impounded in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code, until all conditions outlined in this decision have been met; and

8. That the owner or keeper of the dog provide proof of insurance in an amount not less than \$100,000 insuring the owner or keeper against any claim, loss, damage or injury to persons, domestic animals or property resulting from the acts, whether intentional or unintentional, of the dogs or proof that reasonable efforts were made to obtain such insurance if a policy has not been issued; provided, however, that if a policy of insurance has been issued, the owner or keeper shall produce such policy upon request of the hearing authority or a justice of the district court; and provided further, that if a policy has not been issued the owner or keeper shall produce proof of efforts to obtain such insurance, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) c. 140 § 157(c)(iv) and c. 110 § 10 of the Code; and

#### **Roll call votes on the motion**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Board member Edwards         | Yes    |
| Board member Fleming         | Yes    |
| Board member Johns           | Absent |
| Board member Landry          | Yes    |
| Board member Nelson Campbell | Yes    |

Motion passed by roll call votes.

## Non-Compliance

### 6. **A Non-Compliance Nuisance Dog Hearing for a dog named Emery owned by Amanda-Lee Camacho at 1859 Roosevelt Ave**

Read.

Renee Robichaud, Animal Control Officer for Thomas J. O'Connor (TJO) and Adoption Center read their reports.

#### **Complainant**

Thomas J. O'Connor.

#### **Respondent**

None

#### **Rebuttal**

None

**Board Member Edwards made a motion to deem the dog named Emery a nuisance dog the motion was seconded by Board Member Fleming.**

#### **Roll call votes on the motion**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Board member Edwards         | Yes    |
| Board member Fleming         | Yes    |
| Board member Johns           | Absent |
| Board member Landry          | Yes    |
| Board member Nelson Campbell | Yes    |

Motion passed by roll call votes.

**After review of the hearing testimonies and the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center reports, the Committee has imposed the following conditions on Emery:**

On December 18, 2025, a non-compliance dog hearing was held by the Animal Control and Hearing Committee, in accordance with c. 110 § 10 of the Code of the City of Springfield (hereinafter called the 'Code'), as amended October 17, 2016, regarding your dog, **Emery**.

At the Non-Compliance Hearing, the Committee found the orders dated October 16, 2025 and July 31, 2025, attached hereto, were valid and that you failed to comply with said orders. Therefore, the Committee has voted to fine you Five Hundred Dollars (500.00) pursuant to Chapter 140 Section 157A of the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.).

Please note that transferring ownership or possession of your dog is prohibited under M.G.L.c. 140 § 157A(c). The order issued on July 31, 2025, is still valid, and the bill issued on October 23, 2025 in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is still outstanding.

**Roll call votes on the conditions**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Board member Edwards         | Yes    |
| Board member Fleming         | Yes    |
| Board member Johns           | Absent |
| Board member Landry          | Yes    |
| Board member Nelson Campbell | yes    |

Condition passed by roll call votes