



Animal Control

Regular

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~ Minutes ~

City Clerk

Thursday, December 14, 2017

3:30 PM

Ante Room

Call to Order

3:30 PM Meeting called to order on December 14, 2017 at Ante Room, City Hall, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
City Clerk		Present	

Hearings

The Dog Advisory and Hearing Committee met on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 3:30 P.M. in the Ante Room, City Hall. Present from the Committee were Councilor Melvin A. Edwards, Kim George and Anthony Wilson.

1. Hearing on a Dog Owned by Michelle Roman, Residing at 129 Lowell Street, 01107.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The committee opened the hearing. Lissette Rodriguez stated that the dog bit her son on his butt. She stated that she spoke with the owner and thought that the issue was resolved. She stated that she was concerned that the dog bit another child in the neighborhood. She presented pictures of bite marks on her son. Also, showing that her son went to the Emergency Room.

Michelle Roman, the dog owner, stated that her dog has never bitten her children. She stated that the neighbors child opened her gate to allow the dog to escape and that the child was bitten in front of Ms. Roman's home. She stated that the child leaves her gate open.

Officer Rivera, Animal Control Officer, stated that it was his understanding that the dog rushed out of the office and attacked a girl that was not in the yard. He was concerned that the owner was not present when the attack occurred.

The owner stated that the dog was neutered.

At this point, the public hearing was closed.

The Board to following vote as to designating the dog as dangerous:

Anthony Wilson: Yes
Kim George: Yes
Melvin Edwards: Yes

The Committee imposed the following conditions on the animal:

1. That the dog be confined to the interior of the home unless escorted by an adult.
2. 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;
3. The dog must be licensed for the current year and said license must be renewed annually.
4. Your dogs must be kept current on rabies vaccinations.
5. That the animal shall be surgically sterilized and microchipped with the microchip registered to the City, with all costs associated with these services to be borne by the owner;
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;
7. If the owner of the dog fails to appear at a hearing in front of the Advisory and Hearing Committee and the dog is declared a dangerous dog, the dog shall be impounded and/or euthanized;

2. Nuisance Dog Hearing on 3 Dogs Owned by Karoline Syner of 500 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

The hearing was opened.

Karen Stephenson, stated that when she first moved into her home in 2007, the dogs stated barking at 3am and did not stop barking until 8am. She stated that she believed that in 2008 Animal Control took the dogs because of there barking. She stated that the dogs are left outside unattended at all hours of the night. She has made several calls to the police department about the dogs barking. She stated that the dog owners have been fined by the police and Animal Control.

Animal Control Officer Rivera, stated that the he has visited the location on several occasion and heard the dogs barking. He has tried to contact the owners and left tickets at the residence but the owners have not responded.

The hearing was closed.

The Board to following vote as to designating the dogs as a nuisance:

Anthony Wilson: Yes

Kim George: Yes

Melvin Edwards: Yes

The board imposed the following conditions:

1. Your dogs must be licensed for the current year and said license must be renewed annually;
2. Your dogs must be kept current on rabies vaccinations;
3. You are ordered to enroll your dogs in training with a certified dog trainer within 1 month of the date of this order;
4. You are ordered to take humane, remedial action to prevent barking in excessive 10 minutes. Recommendations for such may be made by representatives from the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center;
5. Your dogs must not be left outdoors unattended for any period of time; an adult owner must be present with the dogs whenever they are outside;
6. You must obtain and maintain personal liability insurance for the dogs in an amount of at least \$100,000.00 for benefit of the public safety and you must file a copy of the insurance policy with the City Clerk Office.