From:	Laura Marusinec
To:	District 1 Comments; Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council; Torres, Jamie C. - CC Member District 3 Denver City Council; Black, Kendra A. - CC Member District 4 Denver City Council; City Council District 5; Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council; Clark, Jolon M. - CC President Denver City Council; Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member District 8 Denver City Coun; District 9; Hinds, Chris - CC Member District 10 Denver City Council; Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member District 11 Denver City Council; kniechatlarge; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large; dencc - City Council; Pazen, Paul M. - DPD SP1001 Chief of Police; Archer, Barbara A. - DPD SP1002 Deputy Chief
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] reminder for medical information regarding pit bulls-from a concerned Pediatrician
Date:	Saturday, January 25, 2020 3:05:39 PM
Attachments:	study citations April 2019 with highlights.docx full citations studies.docx

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Dear Representatives of Denver, CO,

As a Pediatrician, who had started my practice in Colorado, including 6 months in Denver, I continue to urge you to look at the medical data that overwhelmingly refutes the claims that pit bulls aren't more dangerous than other dogs.

I was disappointed that the pit bull regulations changes will be going forward for further review. But I understand. The pit bull lobby is LOUD and strong, and has lots of money and propaganda behind it. Victims' advocates have very little, but we do have the truth, the DATA, and the concern for public safety, including children, adults, and all of the innocent other pets, as our goal.

I have written once prior, but I again have to stress that the peer-reviewed medical studies in the last 10-20 years, including at least seven in the last 2 years, overwhelmingly conclude the dangers pit bulls pose, especially to children. These are UNBIASED sources, unlike most of the pro-pit bull "data".

I feel this is so similar to when the tobacco company tried to claim that smoking was not dangerous...Luckily in time, the public and government listened to the doctors and the medical data then. I can only hope the same occurs here. I hope we don't have to wait years for this.

The claims that pit bulls are not inherently more dangerous, and that it is "all how they are raised" is simply NOT TRUE. There is absolutely NO evidence that the most of the thousands of pit bulls that are attacking are raised any differently than any other dogs. The majority of pit bull attacks are from family dogs. Read some of the recent fatal and serious cases, and you will see that. Yes, many have irresponsible owners, but so do every other dog breeds.

A few examples from 2019:

https://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/national/article239271333.html

https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2019/09/20/infant-mauled-to-death-pit-bull-granite-bay/

https://fox40.com/2019/06/27/child-dies-after-being-attacked-by-family-dog-in-newman-backyard/

The AVMA has a statement article that claims that pit bulls are not more dangerous than other dogs according to research. Yet, they do not cite ANY of the US peer-reviewed medical studies since 2009 that clearly prove them wrong. Wonder why? I have again attached a number of the recent (past 10 years) US medical studies, with citations, and highlights that explain.

Perhaps instead of dealing with a situation that is a result of people not following the rules already (admitting that there are many pit bulls in Denver), you could work on better ways to enforce it. Pit bulls are not flooding shelters because of the ban. Pit bulls flood shelters around the country because of the serious over-breeding, and because of aggression from these dogs to people and pets. Because people fall for the claim that these dogs are "sweet" family dogs, then find out that the dog is not safe around

children or other pets. By allowing more pit bulls into Denver, I can guarantee that there will end up to be more pit bulls in shelters in and around Denver, and more pit bulls euthanized due to aggression.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is getting closer to publishing a meta-analysis study on the pediatric dog bite studies. The data supports our concerns. They have already made some edits to current parent information regarding choosing a safe pet for families that includes a brief discussion about different dog breeds having different risks, including pit bulls.

Again, I thank-you for your consideration and time on this important public safety matter. Please do not make decisions based on emotion or propaganda. The current ban was put into place for a reason, and that reason has only gotten more and more important in the last 30 years. The number of fatal and serious pit bull attacks has grown to record numbers in the last 30 years.

In the last 8-year period of the CDC study (1991 to 1998), pit bulls averaged 3 deaths per year. From 2011 to 2018, the most recent 8-year period, pit bulls averaged 25.5 deaths per year, an increase of over 740%. And in 2019, there were at least 33 deaths due to pit bulls.

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