From:	Abbe Y.
To:	dencc - City Council; Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member District 2 Denver City Council; Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member District 6 Denver City Council; City Council District 5; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large; stacie.gilmore@denverorg.gov; District 9
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Veterinarian in support of repeal of Pit Bull ban
Date:	Sunday, February 16, 2020 10:41:46 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Abbe Yelton. I am a small animal veterinarian currently practicing in Lakewood, CO and living in Arvada. As the owner of two pit bull type dogs, I am not permitted to live in the city of Denver. In my role as a veterinarian, I encounter many different dog breeds and dogs of many different temperaments. Over the course of my 15 year career, I have learned to love pit bulls and choose pit bulls to be part of my family. They are extremely affectionate and fun (and also low-shedders which is a plus!). I also have a third dog, a hound mix. She is a dog just like the other two are dogs, just dogs.

All three of my dogs are friendly with people and other dogs. Even so, I am hyper vigilant at keeping them contained on my property and secured while on walks. This is because I am a responsible dog owner. As an emergency vet, I deal with dog fights and dogs attacking other dogs on a routine basis. The underlying problem with these incidents is not the breed of the dogs involved. The problem is that dogs were off leash, got out of their yards, or accidentally got out of their front doors. The problem is that the owners of these dogs were not paying attention and were not being responsible. Dogs of all breeds can fight with other dogs or bite people, especially if put in stressful situations or if not properly socialized.

The emphasis in putting restrictions on dog ownership should not be related to the breed. We should be emphasizing and encouraging responsible ownership. Responsible dog owners of any breed should not be prevented from living where they chose. The breed ban is an out-dated embarrassment for the otherwise progressive city of Denver. It needs to be overturned.

Respectfully,
Abbe Yelton DVM