From: Nikki Harris
To: dencc - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong Opposition to Breed-Specific Legislation allowed by Mayor Hancock
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2020 7:03:00 PM

As a lover of all dogs, someone who has personal experience with many different breeds, and a Denver resident, I want to strongly voice my opposition to the BSL repeal. Statistics show that the pit bulls, when neutered and raised in a loving home, are no more aggressive than the vast majority of dog breeds. Pit Bull breeds were once known as "America's dog" and are one of the most popular type of dog breeds in the United States. The main reason why people do not like pit bulls is due to media sensationalism in the 1980s that has permeated unnecessary fear into our society with little statistical backing. Studies from many countries have shown that laws like the one under discussion do little to nothing to actual protect citizens. As a child, I was a natural dog lover and spent many free afternoons walking and playing with all the dogs in the neighborhood. During that time I was bitten by two dogs- a Cocker Spaniel and a German Shepard. The pit bulls and the pit bull mixes were among the goofiest, sweetest dogs I worked with and I have never felt unsafe around a well trained dog. Pit bulls are naturally kind and loving creatures who should be welcomed into the many loving homes in Denver.

However, I realize that emotional pandering will not work for government reasoning. Therefore, I think you will find the sum total of the financial responsibility to uphold this law to be unnecessary and a useless waste of taxpayer money. The fiscal responsibility of the taxpayer to uphold this law (from my research) comes to a total of about $1,000,000 a year. That's a million dollars being put towards legislation that is not statistically helpful or relevant. It is the governments responsibility to use taxpayer money in ways that are based on facts and not emotions. The facts show that this law will not improve public safety. A more efficient and effective use of this large sum of money would be to enforce laws that would penalize, prosecute and fine negligent or reckless owners who not only abuse animals but also put their neighbors at risk by creating unsafe situations with their dogs.

As a Denver resident, I hope that the representatives that have been elected to be the voice for our community will continue to educate themselves and listen to the facts and vote against the breed-specific legislation veto Mayor Hancock has recently signed. Thank you for your time and serious consideration.

Nicole Harris