From: Christine Lambert
To: dencc - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Repeal the Pit Bull Ban!
Date: Sunday, February 16, 2020 5:22:28 PM

Dear Denver City Council,

I write to you today to respectfully urge ALL members of the City Council (including those who were not present for the last vote) to override Mayor Hancock's veto of bill 20-0071 and repeal the ban of "pit bull" type dogs in Denver. I recognize that you have already heard the arguments through the public comment process, and I will not waste your time with anecdotal stories of my love for "pit bulls," though I could go on for days about the hundreds I have met during my experience with grooming and dog rescue. Instead, I urge you to read the facts, if you have not already, and come to the logical decision that Breed Specific Legislation simply does not work. The ASPCA, HSUS, AVMA, AKC, and many more well-informed organizations know this to be true. Further, Breed Specific Legislation is unconstitutional and will be the subject of further, expensive litigation in Denver if this bill does not pass.

The millions of dollars spent on the enforcement of this ban is much better spent on the enforcement of regulations such as licensing of all pets and animal cruelty. Not only is Breed Specific Legislation cruel to dog lovers and "pit bulls" themselves, it is almost impossible to ensure that those enforcing the laws know what a "pit bull" is. I encourage all of you to take a quiz to see if you can choose the American Pit Bull Terrier or American Staffordshire Terrier from the group of different breeds.

The Denver City Council has spent much time considering this issue, hearing from all sides. Unfortunately, this is not the same for Mayor Hancock. His choice to use his power to veto for the first time in his time as mayor was an abuse of discretion, considering it was not the will of the people. He also spent far less time than you considering this issue, and I believe this is the main reason he made the wrong decision to veto.

Please recall that your duty as City Council men and women is to uphold the will of the people. I believe it is clear that the majority of people in Denver are looking forward to the repeal of the "pit bull" ban. "Pit bulls" must be given the same opportunities as other dogs to prove that they are good, to be adopted into loving homes, to be safe from prejudice, and to escape the threat of death. Please also keep in mind that you have the potential to save thousands of lives with this vote, as "pit bulls" are killed everyday because of this ban.

I have put together a short list of important links for your consideration:
https://www.maddiesfund.org/assets/grants/denver-bsl-revised-final-report.pdf
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6306151/
https://avmajournals.avma.org/doi/abs/10.2460/javma.2000.217.836
https://www.animallaw.info/case/vanater-v-village-south-point
https://www.shawpitbullrescue.com/can-you-find-the-pit-bull/

Thank you,
Christine Lambert
Perminent Resident of Denver
Temporary Resident of San Diego (where we do not have BSL)

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