From: Dorr Totten
To: dencc - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2005 Policy Error
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 8:21:13 AM

Hello,

I wanted to take an opportunity to reach out and express dismay over one of the city's policies. I have known about it for some time and it still bothers me, especially with more recent attention again to this blight on the city council's record.

The city has had decided to enact a ban in 2005 against a specific breed of pet dogs, the pit bull. It shows ignorance and fear based logic on the part of the city council as it is not 'a breed' that is responsible for occasional incidences of negative pet behavior. It comes down to owners who need to be responsible. I am old enough to have seen the 'bad dog' trend shift from German Shepard to Doberman Pincers to Rottweilers and then to others; and it was just as ridiculous then as well. It makes no more sense than trying to ban cars because there are irresponsible owners of cars that do bad things with their cars.

What this foolish policy does is punish those who have beloved pets and who are not part of the problem. If council members bothered to do effective and honest research, they would know that Pit Bulls are one of the most loyal, loving, and dependable dogs a person can have a pet. In fact, that honest research would show that it is irresponsible owners that are the problem, not a 'breed of dog' . Just like only the irresponsible drivers of cars get punished and not all drivers, irresponsible dog owners should be targeted and not owners of beloved family pets.

I would urge the council to to nullify this rather ineffective policy. The extreme force and intrusion on one's rights do not merit the negligible if any, improvement to public safety. Irresponsible owners are still there and just just shift to the next popular pet breed such as an Akita or St Bernard or Boxer, or etc. The negative pet behavior problem still remains and then grows again because the root problem of *Irresponsible Pet Owners* is still there. Enact policies that make sense such as toughening punishment against the person who owns the animal in negative pet behavior. The practice of unfairly targeting owners who love their well behaved pets, and forcing them, I will say illegally, to surrender their pets for euthanasia is a disgusting and inhumane policy that needs to be ended.

Respectfully,
Dorr Totten