From:	Dawn Marie
To:	dencc - City Council
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Please override the Mayor"s Veto on the Pit Bull Ban
Date:	Friday, February 14, 2020 6:04:39 PM

Hello,
My name is Dawn Capp, and I am so terribly disappointed that Denver's Pit Bull ordinance remains in effect. The city council came so close to moving Denver away from what is a senseless, cruel practice of killing an animal simply because of the way it looks.

Breed bans are wrong. They hurt good dogs. I won't get into all the things you've already heard (there are dangerous dogs and irresponsible owners of all breeds, that Pit Bulls do not have a stronger bit than other dogs their size, that their jaws do NOT lock, etc.)

I'm asking that those of you who either voted NO or were absent for the vote to join the other seven who voted yes.

When I ventured into my first forray into Pit Bull rescue, a woman called me, desperate, asking for help with her dog. She had just moved to Denver for a job and didn't know about the ban. Her dog was a mixed breed dog that looked like it might have some Pit Bull in it.

One morning, she was in the shower. She stepped out, wrapped the towel around her, and padded out of the bathroom. In the living room, she saw her dog Cookie sitting completely still in the living room, staring at some point on the wall, out of her site. She found that quite odd. Cookie was normally very happy and playful and would be right there when she came out of the bathroom.

Taking a few steps toward Cookie, she rounded the corner and saw a strange man standing still int he corner. He saw her, and tried to bolt. Cookie snarled at him. He froze. She called the police. Because of Cookie, she said, she was still alive. She believed with all her heart that man was there to cause her harm. Cookie never touched him, but she saved her owner's life.

The woman needed to get Cookie out of Denver to have time to sell her house, find another job, and move. There was no way, she said, that she was going to surrender Cookie.

Unfortunately, I had no way to take Cookie at the time. This was the 90s, and social media wasn't what it is today. I'm not sure what happened to the woman or to Cookie, but I hear too many of those stories.

Please vote to override the veto. Breed bans are the worst form of breed discrimination. I'm not going to say that dogs are anywhere near as important as human beings, even though I LOVE dogs, but that doesn't mean dogs' lives are unimportant. Dogs are intelligent, emotional creatures. Their lives have meaning. We know that discriminating against race is wrong. Banning a dog's very existence because of how it looks is also wrong.

Dawn Capp, M.S., J.D.