

Mayor and Councillors

From: Christie Lagally [christielagally@gmail.com]
Sent: December 27, 2010 5:54 PM
To: Mayor and Councillors
Cc: m blendell; Mia takhar
Subject: Request to present to council
Categories: UCRS CODE / FILE NUMBER: 12-8060-20-7932



Mayor and Councillors
 City of Richmond
 6911 No. 3 Road
 Richmond, BC

Dear Honorable Mayor and Councillors:

We would like to request changes to the Animal Control bylaw 7932 which requires certain breeds of dogs to be automatically designated as 'dangerous dogs' regardless of the actual behavior displayed. In Richmond, dogs of the following breeds are designated as 'dangerous': American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier or any dog crossed with these breeds or having the appearance of these breeds. (ref. Bylaw No. 7230, Part 9.1). While dogs who have displayed excessive aggression towards people or animals are also identified as 'dangerous dogs', dogs of the breeds listed in the bylaw have been inappropriately labeled as dangerous. As a result, owners of these dogs are required to muzzle their dogs while on walks or in yards, and are banned from off-leash facilities in Richmond. Furthermore, owners are required to pay \$250 dog licensing fee instead of the typical \$30 dog licensing fee. As a result, most responsible owners of such dogs simply do not license their dogs in Richmond.

This Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) is an antiquated and ineffective method of municipal animal control. Originally, this type of legislation was implemented out of fear that certain breeds of dogs were more inherently dangerous than others. While every breed of dog has different attributes, not one breed is inherently more dangerous than another and this view is supported by all major animal welfare groups such as the BC SPCA, the American Veterinary Medical Association, US Humane Society, the Toronto Humane Society, and many more.

We would like to present our argument to council during the next council meeting. We feel the dangerous dogs licenses should be reserved for the owners of dogs that have displayed excessive aggression. We will be presenting facts on the pit-bull breeds, research on the ineffectiveness of BSL and our recommendation to change the Animal Control Bylaw (dangerous dog section) so as not to discriminate against the pit bull or other breeds of dogs.

Furthermore, we would like to present to council what we believe is a significant loss of revenue to the City of Richmond as a result of lack of licensing by owners of banned breeds. While most of these owners are responsible dog owners, they choose not to license their dogs due to unfair licensing costs. We believe the removal of the BSL will increase revenue of licensing fees due to significant increases in compliance.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you regarding a date to present to council.

CNCL - 55

01/04/2011

Sincerely,

Melanie Blendell, Mia Takhar and Christie Lagally

Animal Welfare Advocacy Coalition

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