



Sharon Dickinson <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>

Dog Limitations

Gary Drucker <gary.drucker@gmail.com>

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To: tom.rothmann@lacity.org, sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

Dear Mr. Rothmann and Ms. Dickinson,

I am writing to express my wife and my opposition to any ordinance that allows for an unlimited number of dogs in any residence in our neighborhood. Even one dog, uncontrolled or poorly trained, can be a horrible nuisance. Almost without fail, the owners say "he doesn't bark when I'm around." But of course, the dogs bark endlessly as soon as the owner(s) leave and, guess what, stop barking whenever the owner returns. How disingenuous of those owners!

Also, I've had a next door renter who had what he claimed were two rescue dogs. Again, they barked wildly whenever he and his wife left them at home and went out. If they were truly rescue dogs, then why weren't they always going with him? In fact, they never went with him and, clearly, he faked their being rescue dogs for some kind of scam reason.

The point of the above is that unfortunately dog owners have little perspective about how their beloved pets bother everyone else. And, frankly, from the owners' solipsistic universe they don't care. If they love their barking dogs, then so should everyone else. Of course, there are ordinances against dogs barking more than 10 minutes straight, but to use a different metaphor/story, that's like "belling the cat" in Aesop's Fables. Good idea, but who will do it? What police officer is going to come by while the dog is still barking, wait 10 minutes and then issue a ticket?

In fact, controls need to be put in place so that irrational dog lovers can be controlled just by counting how many dogs they have on their property, not by catching the dogs barking. If I were to blast music out my window and, just as the police showed up, turn it off, would that be ok? In effect, dog owners do the same thing by quieting their dogs before they are likely to be caught.

I appreciate your listening to my concerns and I trust that we won't allow dogs to take over neighborhoods with million dollar homes for the pleasure of the dog owners. And we would appreciate Councilman Koretz' support of the rational fact that we have paid for our homes, and that dogs haven't.

Sincerely,

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