

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
October 9, 2012
7:15 p.m. – 7:22 p.m.

Ordinance 12-O-09
An Ordinance Of The Mayor And Council Of The City Of College Park, Maryland,
Amending Chapter 102, “Dogs And Other Animals”, §102-1, “Definitions”, §102-2,
“Notification Of Violation”, And §102-5, “Complaints” And Deleting §102-9 “Vicious
Animals That Are Not Impounded” And §102-13 “Animal Control Board” To Discontinue
The Animal Control Board

PRESENT: Mayor Fellows; Councilmembers Kabir, Catlin, Dennis, Stulich, Day, Afzali and Mitchell.

ABSENT: Councilmember Wojahn.

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Groh, Acting City Manager; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Bob Ryan, Director of Public Services; Joshua Ratner, Student Liaison.

Mayor Fellows opened the public hearing on 12-O-09 at 7:15 p.m. and invited Mr. Ryan to provide an overview of this ordinance. Mr. Ryan stated that Ordinance 12-O-9 is intended to discontinue the Animal Control Board. He explained that various actions of the Council over the last 20 years have transferred the original responsibilities of the ACB to other agencies or organizations. In 1991, the Council adopted the use of municipal infractions for violations of the City Code. The method of appealing a municipal infraction is trial in District Court, rather than at ACB hearings. In 2001 the Council adopted the Prince George’s County Animal Ordinance which allows City residents to resolve neighbor-to-neighbor disputes before the County’s Commission for Animal Control. In 2007 the City established the Animal Welfare Committee that helps adopt-out animals and provides public information regarding animal care. Finally, resident noise complaints regarding animals, such as barking dogs, can be heard by the City’s Noise Control Board.

Comments from the audience:

Jack Robson, 4710 Harvard Road, Member of the Animal Control Board: The Board last met in 2005 – 2006 to discuss animal welfare, and suggested that taking care of animals was not a function of the Animal Control Board, so they supported the creation of the Animal Welfare Committee. The basic purpose of the Animal Control Board is to solve problems between neighbors when infractions cannot be issued because the ACO did not witness the violation. Some people don’t want to go down to the County. They haven’t had a meeting because there haven’t been any serious problems. He recommends retaining the part of the Code that allows them to resolve neighbor-to-neighbor disputes.

Adjourn: There being no further comments, Mayor Fellows adjourned the Public Hearing at 7:22 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC
City Clerk

Date
Approved