

Nov. 6, 1982

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CITY CLERK

Members of the City Council
Dear Elected officials

This is to inform you that the administration of the animal control law is inadequate.

PRESENT LAW

INOPERABLE

D.A.'S OFFICE

DISGRACE

1. The Dog Officer and those few others authorized to give tickets to owners who do not leash their dogs are unable to be at the scene of offenses.

2. When a case is brought under the Animal Nuisance Act, the Asst. D.A. assigned to the case (example 5-10-82) did not question any witnesses prior to the case, was unprepared for the case and decided the best course of action was to ask the defendant what she was willing to do. The defendant ridiculed the court to me, before and after the "case".

Background information - The Clerk of Courts office decided that the Animal Nuisance Act is the correct manner of bringing the case. They decide what date is placed on the charge. I had trouble with the person charged extending over 3 yrs. The D.A.'s office wished to ignore the fact that Cambridge has a Leash Law.

HARVARD

UNCO-OPERATIVE

3. Harvard University an owner that permits unleashed dogs on their property are unconcerned about the welfare of people or animals on their property or walking on abutting sidewalks. President Bok, in a letter to me, ^{Oct. 1981} stated that he referred the issue to the office of Community Affairs and Harvard Police Department. When I called the office of Community Affairs, they told me they hadn't heard anything about it and would allow me an appointment with them if anything fundamental was involved that they should take action about. 1982

CITY

RESPONSIBILITY

NOT WELL
DEFINED

4. Summary - A great many people ignore this law and the city has to take a stronger stand and commit itself to back its own laws.

I include the following recommendations:

1. Send a notice out with the next water, sewer or tax bill telling people to leash their dogs. When I posted copies of the Leash Law on poles, a person wrote on one - TO BAD DOGS CAN'T READ.
2. Tell all owners of ^{NON-OWNER} unoccupied residences to post or otherwise notify their tenants. Harvard might

need a special letter

3. Have the police speak to all owners walking their unleashed.
4. Send sound trucks around notifying residents to leash their dogs.
5. Try to convince Harvard to act more responsibly.
 1. Make sure no dog who has a complaint against him is permitted to go unleashed on their property.
 2. Have the Dog Officer patrol the grounds.
 3. Post the grounds stating in what areas unleashed dogs are permitted and at what times.
6. Call in the new D.A. Harschbarger and develop better procedures. Get together to write an adequate law that can be used.
7. Call a meeting between the Dog Officer and the Police Department to form a working alliance.
8. Have an awareness program about pet care, control and management in the schools, with the Dog Officer making appearances at the school.
9. A picture in the Chronicle of various members of the City Council walking their dogs would be a plus. Caption - You Can Do It Too.
10. Have the Art Council, if we have one, draw up some posters about walking your leashed pet and plaster the city with them.
11. Please insert anything else you can think of.

Why NOT

It is very hard to get things accomplished but the least we should do is "make a sincere effort." I am still trying to get the name of an owner with an unleashed golden retriever who is attracted to the Harvard grounds. I tried following him home but he ~~want~~ was too fast for me. As some people can get very nasty, this is not the best action that can be taken. The above recommendations are sounder. It would be helpful if all were enacted.

I hope this will be only the first of your actions in trying to prevent crime in the city. The list of household breakins etc. in the Chronicle should be addressed and reduced drastically. If money is the only thing preventing us from addressing this important problem, then I suggest that the windfall profit called longevity checks be withdrawn and the money be used in solving the issue of crime.

Yours truly,
A. L. Buckley
Cambridge, Mass.
02138

5.

S-709

Comm. from A.L. Buckley Re: animal control laws.

In City Council,

November 15, 1982

11/15/82

Referred to the
City Manager

copy sent to the City Manager and
Councilor Clinton, per his request 11/16/82
mcl