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CAMBRIDGE MA.

August 28, 1996

City Council
City Clerk's Office
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Ms. Janet Megerdichian
52 Chilton Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Gentlemen:

On August 4, 1996, my dog and I were attacked by four dogs, all from one owner. The dogs came running out from their home and surrounded us with obvious intent to bite for what appeared to be about three to four minutes, with no help or concern from the owner. All the dogs were quarantined including my own, due to the abrasions on my leg.

This incident was the culmination of many other dog problems I have encountered in my neighborhood since I purchased my dog three years ago. The following is a partial account of such situations:

1. My dog was bitten three times by a "friendly" Lab (that is what the dog's owner informed me prior to the Lab attacking my dog) who was off leash while jogging with it's owner.
2. I have had numerous unattended dogs run out from their yards wanting to attack.
3. Dogs running loose in the neighborhood has almost become a daily occurrence. A days walk does not seem to go by without a Boxer, Pit Bull, or Mutt following my dog and I while browsing the streets.

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At the time my dog was bitten by the Lab, I contacted the Animal Control Office and asked if patrolling of the West Cambridge area could be done more frequently due to the numerous dogs that I had seen walking off leash, some with accompaniment and others without. Unfortunately, however, my dog and I had to be attacked by the four dogs which led me to learn that the fine for off-leash dogs is \$10, \$25, and \$50, respectively.

The amount of a first offence, \$10, is no restitution for the physical abuse or mental anguish someone endures from the irresponsibility of a negligent dog owner. I am fearful now whenever I walk my dog, wherever it may be. In addition, I have had to purchase pepper spray to protect us both.

I am requesting the opportunity to change the ordinance to reflect the extreme degree of this problem, specifically in lieu of the West Cambridge area, where the influx of dogs has obviously become uncontrollable. If we can have signs posted for dog littering, I'm sure we can have signs reflecting a crime that is much more serious and extremely dangerous.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Janet Megerdichian

cc/Mayor Russell

Consent Communication #26

5-425

Communication was received from Janet Megerdichian, transmitting her concern regarding problems with unattended dogs in and around the Chilton Street area.

In City Council September 9, 1996.

Referred to Animal
Commission and Ordinance
Committee for Consideration of
necessary fines

Copies sent 9-11-96