



Office of the Chicago City  
Clerk



R2012-11

Office of the City Clerk

City Council Document Tracking Sheet

**Meeting Date:** 1/18/2012

**Sponsor(s):** Fioretti, Bob (2)  
Mendoza, Susana A. (Clerk)  
Moreno, Proco Joe (1)  
Graham, Deborah L. (29)  
Hairston, Leslie A. (5)  
Jackson, Sandi (7)  
Ervin, Jason C. (28)

**Type:** Resolution

**Title:** Call for hearing(s) on joint committee hearing regarding current best practices in animal care and control to reduce dangerous attacks

**Committee(s) Assignment:** Joint Committee on Health and Environmental Protection, Public Safety, and License and Consumer Protection

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING DANGEROUS ANIMAL ATTACKS**

WHEREAS, On Monday, January 2, 2012, a 62 year old jogger was viciously mauled by two dogs at approximately 6:00 a.m. on a Rainbow Beach Park path on the 7700 block of South Shore Drive near his home; and

WHEREAS, A Good Samaritan couple from a nearby apartment complex woke up to the jogger's cries for help. The man responded by trying to beat the dogs off while his wife telephoned police. The responding officers were forced to shoot both 70 lb. animals before they would relinquish the intense grip of their jaws on the jogger. The victim was then transported and admitted to Stroger Hospital's intensive care unit where he remained in critical condition after undergoing surgery for bites on his feet and legs; and

WHEREAS, This appalling incident is but one of a string involving vicious dogs. In 2010, a 56-year-old man was mauled to death in his South Side home by his daughter's animals. A series of dog attacks in 2003, including one where two dogs killed a 48-year-old woman jogger in Dan Ryan Woods, forced Cook County Forrest Preserve authorities to close that South Side nature facility for several months; and

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service reports 5,669 postal employees were attacked in more than 1,400 cities in 2010. This city ranks 13th for the number of dog attacks on its carriers that cost the Postal Service nearly \$1.2 million last year. In 2011, the City of Chicago Department of Animal Care & Control reported 1,931 dog-bites within the city limits; and

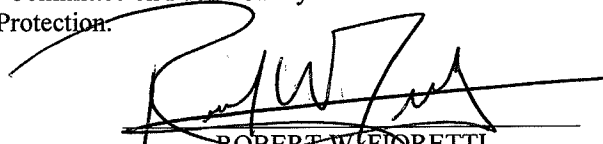
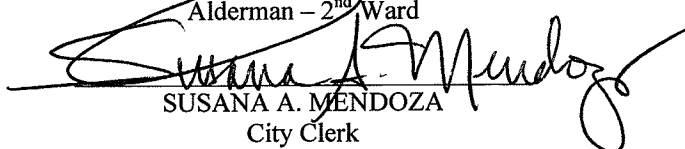
WHEREAS, There may be any number of triggers that cause animals to attack. A pack of dogs may act differently from how they normally act individually. Animal behaviorists believe fatal dog attacks are caused by a myriad of factors such as the personality of the dog, how the dog interacts with other dogs, whether they have been spayed or neutered, and their relationship with humans. In 2007, this legislative body considered a breed-specific ban but, after a public deliberation, increased penalties on negligent owners instead. Any further regulation should continue to be not breed-specific but owner/handler specific such as licensing the owner rather than the animal; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon this legislative body to re-examine the ordinances concerning animals deemed dangerous to ensure that adequate safeguards are mandated and enforced including such options as owner education, new leashing requirements, and special licensing of professionals who handle animals, and considering attacks by animals that cause grievous bodily harm or death where the owners are deemed negligent as tantamount to assault with a deadly weapon; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert W. Fioretti, Alderman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, has informed this august body of this important public health and safety issue; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council gathered together this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2012 AD, do hereby call upon the chairmen of the Committee on Health & Environmental Protection, the Committee on Public Safety and the Committee on License and Consumer Protection to expeditiously convene a joint committee hearing to take public and expert testimony regarding the current best practices in animal care and control and make recommendations for legislation to reduce the number of animal attacks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and given to the Honorable George A. Cardenas, Chairman of the Health and Environmental Protection Committee, the Honorable James A. Balcer, Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety and the Honorable Emma Mitts, Chair of the Committee on License and Consumer Protection.

  
ROBERT W. FIORETTI  
Alderman - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
  
SUSANA A. MENDOZA  
City Clerk

RESOLUTION CONCERNING DANGEROUS ANIMAL ATTACKS

Joe Morris 1<sup>ST</sup>



Debra J. Drake 2<sup>ND</sup>

Lislie A. Houston 5<sup>TH</sup>

Gandi Jackson 7<sup>TH</sup>