

Columbus Consolidated Government
Minutes of a Special Called Meeting: Ordinance Amendment
Animal Control Advisory Board

January 17, 2023

2:30 pm

Location of Meeting:

Public Works Driver's Training Room

602 – 11th Avenue Bldg. E

Columbus, GA, 31901

Work Discussion/Ordinance Amendment

Present at Meeting:

Contreana Pearson

Jayne Dunn

Sabine Stull, Chairperson

Raymond Culpepper

Kristi Ludy

Dr. Scott McDermott

Courtney Pierce

Julee Fryer Co-Chairperson

Stephen Waters

Absent from Meeting:

Dr. Jean Waguespack

Channon Emory

Drale Short

A special called meeting for work session to discuss an ordinance amendment **Section 5-7.2** of the Columbus Consolidated Government, Animal and Fowl ordinance for tethering. The Animal Control Advisory Board was called to order at 2:35 pm on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, by the chairperson Sabine Stull.

Sabine Stull introduced the new board member Stephen Waters to the Animal Control Advisory Board. All present board members introduced themselves and any animal affiliations.

Sabine Stull stated, before everyone starts discussion of the ordinance, please let her know where each member stands on the proposed supervised tethering. She stated, dogs should be housed indoors. Jayne Dunn stated, that would be the great sentiment but that is not realistic view for every

dog owner. Sabine Stull stated, she feels supervision while outside is for safety. Contreana Pearson referred the board members to her research documents she had done within Georgia, Alabama, Texas, and California. She stated the tethering was not totally banned but hours were written similar to the Columbus ordinance.

The board members looked at time restrictions animals would not be tethered from 10 pm through 6 am. Weather restrictions was also mentioned. Courtney Pierce stated, people are still chaining dogs outside, she believes outreach community education should start their first. She also brought research from Bernalillo County Texas whereas their citizens must register their pets on trolley systems after all alternative methods of containment on their property are exhausted. Dr McDermott stated, a tethering system can be safe, and he has never seen an injury in his office from the usage of the 3-point system. Courtney Pierce also suggested changing the outside temperature violation from 32 degrees to 50 degrees, would that help? Stephen Waters stated dogs should be in the house, they should not stay outside, people are idiots.

Julee Fryer suggested speaking to councilman in their districts to maybe do a test pilot run on incorporating an amendment first before putting on the books. She believes areas that would need help are 31907 and 31903 zip codes. Dr. McDermott stated, being too restrictive, may be an overreach to ban tethering at this point.

Stephon Waters stated, his dogs have their own rooms in his home, and he has no problem with tethering but not using collars, harnesses instead. Contreana Pearson stated a lot of citizens animal control officers encounter cannot afford to supervise their dogs outside on tethering because they work eight or more hours a day. She feels those restrictions will lead to animals being let out as strays at the Animal Care & Control Center. Stephen Waters stated, do away with tethering animals and dogs be kept inside, people are idiots. Raymond Culpepper stated, yes, your area is good, we're talking about the bad areas that can't house animals inside. Stephen Waters stated, so you'll ban the good people doing the right thing, and just don't care. Julee Fryer stated, "what do you mean? What we are not going to do is starting to say ya'll people". She stated it is a lot of busy stuff going on outside of this group. Raymond Culpeper stated, you are not going to come in here and try to change everything on your first day. Dr. McDermott stated okay let's get back to talking about tethering.

Dr McDermott asked could Contreana Pearson get the calls that come in about cruelty so they can look at the data. Contreana Pearson stated yes, she will email numbers to the board, once she has requested the list from the IT Department.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm The next scheduled work sessions is Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

C: Clerk of Council, ACAB Members

