

DRAFT

DATE

King County Council  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Re: Title 11 of the King County Code**

Dear King County Council:

As you are aware, the City of Mercer Island (City) currently contracts with King County for animal control services pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) effective January 1, 2018.

Currently, the City's municipal code with respect to animals lacks process and procedures for declaring dogs to be "potentially dangerous," as well as certain due process procedural protections required pursuant to Washington caselaw. These code deficiencies have posed significant enforcement challenges for the City.

The City recognizes that the ILA requires the City to adopt an animal control ordinance in a form substantially the same as Title 11 of the King County Code (KCC) with respect to license, fee, penalty, enforcement, appeal, impound/redemption and sheltering provisions. The City understands that the County is currently working on a rewrite of Title 11 and that this rewrite has been in process since at least 2019.

Meanwhile due to significant enforcement challenges noted above, as an interim measure pending King County's rewrite of its Title 11, the City of Mercer Island is updating its Animal Code (chapter 7.04 MICC) to establish process and procedures for potentially dangerous dogs and other requisite due process protections. Along with this interim measure, the City of Mercer Island respectfully requests that the King County Council prioritize and complete its update to Title 11 KCC as soon as practicable.

Respectfully on behalf of the Mercer Island City Council,

Benson Wong  
Mayor

CC: Deputy Prosecutor Mari Isaacson  
RASKC Sargeant Tim Anderson