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MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: JOSHUA TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
SUBJECT: DANGEROUS DOG APPEAL
DATE: APRIL 2, 2026

Jay and Carla Linderholm are requesting the removal of a Dangerous Dog classification for one of their former dogs. According to the Linderholm's, the dog in question is no longer living with them and is undergoing training to correct the alleged aggressive behavior, with then placement to a home who can better serve its needs.

I have included the ordinances related to Dangerous Animals can be found in City Code, both Sections 90.09 and 90.10 I have also highlighted the portions that I believe are appropriate to this case. This request would fall under Section 90.09(G), which talks about the procedure once an animal is deemed as dangerous by the Animal Control Officer. Chief Applen has reached out to Critter Getters, who the City contracts with for animal control services, to request their attendance at the City Council meeting to provide background and testimony to the City Council.

It should be of note, there is no database of dangerous dogs to my knowledge. Any dog who carries the label in New Prague, and who has been reported to either Scott or Le Sueur Counties per City Code, does not necessarily carry the label in other communities beyond these two counties.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council not grant an immediate appeal of the Dangerous Dog classification. Instead, staff recommends the Council ask for the dog to go through proper training first. If, after training for a defined amount of time, the dog is shown to not be dangerous to its surrounding community, the City Council may reconsider at that time.