

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
**From:** Jay and Carla Linderholm - 1202 Highview Dr. NE  
**Date:** April 1, 2026  
**Request:** Consider a request to remove “dangerous dog” determination

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## **LAWRENCE'S STORY**

We met Lawrence through a neighbor fostering him for the Minnesota Boxer Rescue. Lawrence was just under one year old and had been surrendered by his first family due to a child's allergy. At the time, we had one boxer, Layla. The two dogs adored each other, and we fell in love with Lawrence. We adopted him in early August of 2024.

The first year with Lawrence was uneventful. Lawrence integrated into our lives well, enjoyed visiting the cabin, and became bonded with Layla. We saw some instances of Lawrence being wary of, or disliking other dogs, but nothing that caused much concern. Lawrence's exuberance is something we tried to work on, given his size and strength. He would enthusiastically love on every person he met. We had not experienced any aggression, wariness or dislike toward any human.

Lawrence has been current on all vaccinations and routine veterinary care since his adoption.

## **OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS**

Incident 1 – August 13, 2025

The first incident Lawrence was part of occurred last summer. During this time, there was an ongoing dispute with our neighbor, directly across the street. We had previously had a good relationship with this neighbor for many years, but things were actively starting to deteriorate due to a dispute over a shared shed. The dispute has since been resolved, but we would like to note that tensions were very high on both sides, during the time when Incident 1 occurred.

On the date of this incident, Lawrence got away from Jay as he was hooking him to his tie out. Lawrence ran toward the bank of mailboxes we share with our neighbors, and our neighbor was standing nearby, in his driveway, at the time. Jay witnessed Lawrence run toward and jumped up at our neighbor. Jay did not see Lawrence bite him. Jay quickly called Lawrence home and secured him.

#### Incident 2 – March 4, 2026

Carla was outside cleaning up the yard, with Lawrence and Layla outside on their tie-outs. Carla went inside the house to get a garbage bag, and was gone for approximately two minutes. When she came back outside, she saw that Lawrence was gone and was in a neighbor's yard, and she called him back. Shortly thereafter, a person who had been walking her dog nearby arrived and stated that Lawrence had run at her and had attacked her dog. The person stated that Lawrence did not attack her, and that she did not find any blood or injuries on her dog. Following this incident, Lawrence was taken for boarding by Critter Getters to complete a 10-day quarantine.

This incident has brought us to the realization that our home is not a good fit for Lawrence. While we love him very much, he needs more training and structure than we can provide. He would also be best suited to a home with a privacy fence, which we do not have. We have decided to surrender Lawrence back to the Minnesota Boxer Rescue. They are currently working to find a suitable foster home where Lawrence's needs can be met. Following pickup from Critter Getters at the end of Lawrence's quarantine, he was taken to Unleashed Dog Boarding. Darren and Hayley Alick are highly qualified dog trainers and behaviorists, and have been evaluating and working with Lawrence to determine what is best for him, going forward.

#### **REQUEST**

We are respectfully requesting that the City Council consider removing the "dangerous dog" designation that has been placed on Lawrence. We truly believe that future incidents involving Lawrence could be mitigated by additional training and an environment that meets his needs. We believe a home with an experienced owner, dedicated to his training, and a secure privacy fence would virtually eliminate his issues. The Behavioral Evaluation Report by Hayley and Darren Alick (attached) supports our belief that Lawrence is not a dangerous dog, and with the right owner, he could thrive.

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

1. We believe that Lawrence feels fiercely protective over Layla. His dog-reactivity is significantly higher when Layla is around, versus when Lawrence is taken for walks alone or otherwise not near Layla. Because we have decided to surrender Lawrence, his protection of Layla will no longer be a factor.

2. The police report related to Incident 1 states the following: “Initially, neighbor believed the dog was only able to bite his pants. After a while he looked at his leg and found that it was bleeding from a small puncture hole” and “Neighbor did tell me before I left he was comfortable around the dogs and did not think the dog approached him in an aggressive manner. Dennis believed the dog was being playful.”

We feel that these statements support that Incident 1 should not be classified as an attack. Lawrence is a young, strong dog. We know that sometimes dogs can cause unintended, minor injuries to people through play. We believe that is the case, in this instance.

3. During Incident 2, Lawrence acted in a perceived aggressive manner toward another dog. We do want to note that the police report indicates that there was no injury to the other dog, which is encouraging. We have no doubt that if Lawrence’s intent was to truly do harm to the other dog, injury would have occurred.
4. Incident 2 caused us to realize that our home is not appropriate for Lawrence. We feel strongly that his reactivity could be managed and he could thrive in another home that is better suited to his needs.
5. We respectfully ask the City Council to allow him to have a fresh start, without the anchor of a “dangerous dog” label.

## ***ATTACHMENTS***

Attachment A: Behavioral Evaluation and Training Recap by Hayley & Darren Alick – Unleashed

Attachment B: Police Report from August 13, 2025 - “Incident 1”

Attachment C: Police Report from March 3, 2026 - “Incident 2”

## **Behavior Evaluation & Training Recap – Lawrence**

Lawrence was presented for evaluation following two reported incidents that raised concern regarding potentially dangerous behavior.

The most recent involved an interaction with a woman and her dog, where Lawrence reportedly engaged in an aggressive display. However, it is important to note that no bite occurred and no physical injury or damage was reported. The first incident involved a male individual approaching his mailbox, during which Lawrence exited the home, ran toward the individual, and jumped on him in what was perceived as an aggressive manner.

Upon evaluation, Lawrence demonstrates behaviors consistent with heightened arousal, poor impulse control, and situational reactivity rather than clear intent to cause harm. His responses appear to be driven by excitement, territorial behavior, and underlying insecurity, rather than true offensive aggression.

During his time with us, Lawrence has shown:

- No evidence of sustained or escalating aggression when properly handled
- Responsiveness to structure, guidance, and clear expectations
- Improvement in impulse control with consistent training
- Social engagement without intent to injure when interactions are managed appropriately

It is our professional opinion that Lawrence does not present as a dog with dangerous propensities, but rather as a dog in need of continued structure, training, and responsible management.

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### **Recommendations Moving Forward**

We are absolutely and emphatically recommending that Lawrence engage in a significant amount of continued training, particularly in the areas of reactivity, proper leash walking, and clear behavioral expectations while on leash

Because Lawrence comes from a background of fear and nervousness, it is critical that his training approach is not solely corrective in nature, but instead follows a clear, consistent, and balanced methodology. This includes building confidence, establishing structure, and reinforcing appropriate behaviors while maintaining fair and effective accountability.

To ensure continued success and safety:

- Consistent obedience work and reinforcement of boundaries
- Structured leash work with clear expectations and handler consistency
- Proper management of entry/exit points within the home
- Avoidance of uncontrolled or unstructured interactions

- Continued development of impulse control and neutrality around people and dogs

With these measures in place, Lawrence is capable of functioning safely in both public and home environments.

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### **Professional Background & Experience**

Our training team has over 25 years of professional experience working with a wide range of behavioral issues, including both dog-directed and human-directed aggression. We have built a strong and well-established reputation for producing reliable, safe outcomes through balanced, structured training methods.

Our work extends beyond private client training to include extensive collaboration with rescue organizations across the country, as well as partnerships with Humane Societies. A significant portion of our experience involves evaluating, rehabilitating, and safely reintegrating dogs with complex behavioral histories.

This depth of experience allows us to confidently assess dogs like Lawrence and differentiate between true dangerous behavior and behaviors rooted in fear, insecurity, lack of structure, or poor impulse control.

Feel free to contact us with any questions. 612-361-9069

*Hayley & Darren Alick*

LLC.



**NEW PRAGUE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**INCIDENT REPORT**

|                 |  |                       |  |           |  |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------|--|
| ICR# 25005611   |  | AGENCY ORI# MN0700300 |  | JUVENILE: |  |
| <b>INCIDENT</b> | <p><b>Reported:</b> 08-13-2025 1513<br/> <b>Committed Start:</b> <b>Committed End:</b><br/> <b>Title:</b> Animal Bite-Animal<br/> <b>Short Description:</b> TOOK A REPORT OF A DOG BITE.<br/> <b>Summary:</b><br/>                 RP stated neighbors dog came after him at the mailbox of his residence. RP advised dog only bit his pant leg, wanted the incident documented, and no police response GT#09.<br/><br/>                 RP came in the following day and reported the dog but his leg. See report. ZA07</p> |                       |  |           |  |
|                 | <p><b>Location(s)</b><br/> <b>Address:</b> 1203 HIGHVIEW DR NE      <b>City:</b> New Prague      <b>State:</b> MN      <b>Zip:</b> 56071      <b>Country:</b> US</p>   |                       |  |           |  |
|                 | <p><b>Officer Assigned:</b> Ambroz, Zak      <b>Badge No:</b> 7      <b>Primary:</b> Yes<br/> <b>Officer Assigned:</b> Trout, Gabe      <b>Badge No:</b> 9      <b>Primary:</b> No</p>   |                       |  |           |  |
| <b>NAMES</b>    | <p><b>Involvement:</b> Owner      <b>Name:</b> Linderholm, Jay Timothy<br/> <b>Age:</b> 69      <b>Sex:</b> M      <b>Race:</b> W      <b>Height:</b> 604      <b>Weight:</b> 195<br/> <b>Address:</b> (Residence) 1202 Highview Dr      <b>City:</b> New Prague      <b>State:</b> MN      <b>Zip:</b> 56071      <b>Country:</b><br/> <b>Eye Color:</b> BRO      <b>Hair Color:</b> BRO</p>  |                       |  |           |  |
|                 | <p><b>Involvement:</b> Reported By      <b>Name:</b> Sticha, Dennis Joseph<br/> <b>Age:</b> 77      <b>Sex:</b> M      <b>Race:</b> W      <b>Height:</b> 511      <b>Weight:</b> 245<br/> <b>Address:</b> (Residence) 1203 Highview Dr NE      <b>City:</b> NEW PRAGUE      <b>State:</b>      <b>Zip:</b> 56071      <b>Country:</b><br/> <b>Eye Color:</b> BLU      <b>Hair Color:</b> GRY      <b>Scars:</b> SC CHEST      <b>Scars:</b> SC KNEE</p>   |                       |  |           |  |
|                 | <p><b>Involvement:</b> Owner      <b>Name:</b> Linderholm, Carla Marie<br/> <b>Age:</b> 60      <b>Sex:</b> F      <b>Race:</b> W      <b>Height:</b> 505      <b>Weight:</b> 140<br/> <b>Address:</b> (Residence) 1202 HIGHVIEW DR NE      <b>City:</b> NEW PRAGUE      <b>State:</b> MN      <b>Zip:</b> 56071      <b>Country:</b><br/> <b>Eye Color:</b> BLU      <b>Hair Color:</b> RED</p>   |                       |  |           |  |

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Supplemental Report</b>  |                                       |
| ICR: 25005611   | <b>Last Modified:</b> 08-19-2025 1717 |
| <b>Title:</b> ZA07 8/14/2025  | <b>Created By:</b> Zak Ambroz         |
| <p><b>NEW PRAGUE POLICE DEPARTMENT</b></p> <p><b>INITIAL REPORT</b></p> |                                       |

Photos  Audio  Office Video  Squad Video  Body Camera Video  Additional Video

On August 14, 2025, at approximately 0815, Dennis [REDACTED], DOB: XXXXXXXXXX, came to NPPD and requested to speak with an officer.

Dennis and I spoke in the interview room at the police department, our conversation was recorded by my BWC. Dennis told me he was bitten by a neighbor's dog the previous day. He identified the neighbor as Jay Timothy Linderholm, DOB: XXXXXXXXXX. He indicated Jay was aware of the incident and outside when it occurred. Jay attempted to recall the dog when it came across the street. The dog bit Dennis in the leg. Initially, Dennis believed the dog was only able to bite his pants. After a while he looked at his leg and found that it was bleeding from a small puncture hole. Dennis had a band aid on it at the time and showed me. The wound did appear consistent with being a day old. Dennis did come to the police department the previous day after it occurred and spoke to Officer Trout.

Dennis indicated there was friction with Jay and his spouse due to ownership of a flowerpot. He did not feel comfortable talking to Jay about the bite and if the dog was current on its vaccinations. Dennis indicated his intention of reporting the incident was to confirm the dog was current on vaccinations. Dennis provided photos which were taken from home security cameras. He was unable to provide video, however, and did provide a picture from a security camera which showed a medium sized brown dog that appeared to be biting his leg.

While Dennis waited in the interview room, I was able to make phone contact with Jay. Jay was familiar with the incident but was unaware of the dog bit Dennis. Jay also indicated there was friction among them and felt Dennis was reporting the incident to police to add to the friction. Jay indicated the dog was current on vaccinations and would be able to provide proof. I advised Jay that I would be contacting Critter Getters and to expect a call from them.

I called Critter Getters and provided them with a summary of the incident and Jay's contact information. I met with Jay at his residence as arranged. He requested to see the photo that was provided to me by Dennis. He was shown, and indicated he did not believe the dog bit him. Jay believed it was the camera angle, which makes it appear the dog bit Dennis. Jay requested I speak to Dennis additionally to see if there was video. Jay was verbally warned about the dog being at large in violation of city ordinance.

Dennis had just arrived home, and I spoke to him additionally. Through conversation, Dennis indicated the camera system he has takes a still photo when it detects motion. Previously, he paid \$20 dollars per month so the camera would record motion. He no longer pays for the service, and the camera only takes still photos. Prior to leaving I spoke with Dennis at length about his relationship with Jay. Dennis indicated they used to be on good terms and he wished it could go back to being that way. Dennis did tell me before I left he was comfortable around the dogs and did not think the dog approached him in an aggressive manner. Dennis believed the dog was being playful.

As I was leaving, I received a call from Carla. Carla asked me to send the picture of the dog biting Dennis to her. I advised her she could request it through our records department, and I would not be sending it. Carla told me she believed Dennis was lying and was not really bit by the dog, alleging he has a history of lying. She told me I needed to retrieve the video to prove it. I explained what Dennis told me about his cameras only capturing still photos and not video. Carla believed he was lying

about the video and indicated Dennis assisted police by providing video during a vandalism investigation. I told Carla I would not be doing that as I had no reason not to believe what Dennis told me, nor any reason to disprove him even if he was fabricating his story. I advised Carla there was nothing criminal regarding the incident, and if any civil action was taken it would be their burden, including Dennis, to prove it.

I accompanied Critter Getters to the Linderholm residence at their request. Carla accused Dennis of lying and did not believe he was bitten at all. Carla accused me of taking Dennis' side. I explained to her I had no interest in either of their sides and, in fact, showed leniency by not issuing a citation for having an animal at large. She requested to see the photos provided by Dennis of his security camera, which I showed her and advised her of the process of obtaining the photos through records. I was able to confirm the dog was current on its vaccinations. Dave discussed the quarantine process with them, which they agreed to.

This incident has been referred to Critter Getters and I will not be conducting additional investigation.

The photos provided by Dennis have been uploaded to evidence.com.

This report and photos obtained can be forwarded to Critter Getters.

Nothing further.

ZA07





**NEW PRAGUE POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**INCIDENT REPORT**

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|---------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|--|
| ICR# 26000861 |   | AGENCY ORI# MN0700300         |               | JUVENILE:              |              |  |
| INCIDENT      | Reported: 03-04-2026 1321    First Assigned:1322    First Arrived:1330    Last Cleared:1551<br>Committed Start:    Committed End:<br>Title: Animal Bite-Animal    How Received: Telephone<br>Short Description: RESPONDED TO A RESIDENCE FOR A REPORT OF A DOG ATTACKING ANOTHER DOG.<br>DOG PICKED UP BY CRITTER GETTER FOR A 10-DAY QUARANTINE.<br>Summary:<br>Dog reportedly attacked another dog unprovoked. Dog has bit a person within the last year. 10 day quarantine with critter getters. See report. NO04 BWC/MVR<br>Location(s)<br>Address: 1202 Highview DR NE                      City: New Prague                      State: MN                      Zip: 56071                      Country: US |                               |               |                        |              |  |
|               | OFFICERS  | Officer Assigned: Orrie, Nick |               | Badge No: 4            | Primary: Yes |  |
|               |   | Officer Assigned: Trout, Gabe |               | Badge No: 9            | Primary: No  |  |
| NAMES         |   |                               |               |                        |              |  |
|               | VEHICLES  | State: MN                     | Plate: ZLF173 | VIN: 1GTUUGELXSZ134112 |              |  |
| Make: GMC     |   | Model:                        | Year: 2025    | Color: GRY             |              |  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Supplemental Report</b>   |   |   |
| ICR: 26000861  | Last Modified: 03-05-2026 2135                        |   |
| Title: NO04 3/5/2026   | Created By: Nick Orrie                                |   |
| <br><b>NEW PRAGUE POLICE DEPARTMENT</b><br><br><b>INITIAL REPORT</b> |   |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Video     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Squad Video                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Body Camera Video | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Video |

**ANIMAL – DOG BITE****NPPD ICR: 26000861****Initial Information:**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, I, New Prague Police Officer Nick Orrie, was dispatched to 1202 Highview Dr NE for a report of a dog that was attacked another dog. The dog that attacked the reporting party's dog was now contained.

**Involved People:**

Reporting Party: [REDACTED] (DOB:XXXXXXXXXX) Phone: XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Owner: Linderholm, Carla Marie (DOB: XXXXXXXXXXXX) Phone: XXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Brenda Pint Statement:**

Brenda was walking her dog on the sidewalk of 7<sup>th</sup> St NW, she and her dog were walking northbound and crossing the intersection of Highview Dr NE. A dog, approximately 300ft away was on the property of 1202 Highview Dr NE, barking and then began running at Brenda and her dog.

The dog attacked and bit Brenda's dog, a car driving down the street saw this happen and stopped. The driver yelled and honked their horn to scare the aggressor dog away. Brenda and her dog got into the stranger's car. The stranger brought Brenda to her house, she got in her vehicle and returned to where she saw the dog come from and informed the owner of the attack.

Brenda denied being bit by the dog and said she could not find any blood on her dog. She planned on taking her dog to the vet to get checked out.

**Carla Linderholm Statement:**

Carla was outside with her dog, who was connected to a chained tie-out. Carla was cleaning up her yard, she went inside to grab garbage bags and when she came back outside, her dog was gone from her yard. She saw her dog in the neighbor's yard and called him back home. She found a part of the leash that connected to the chain had broken off, causing the dog to be able to get off the property.

Brenda came to Carla's house and informed her of the attack. Brenda at one point told Carla she was bit by the dog and then later said she was not bitten by the dog.

Carla provided a copy of the dog's vaccination records; I took a picture of the records.

**Critter Getters:**

I called Dave from Critter Getters and informed him of the situation, he said Carla's dog would need to be quarantined for 10 days. Carla was okay with Critter Getters taking the dog for quarantine because she was going to be away on vacation.

Dave responded to Carla's residence and picked up the dog without any issues.

**Axon:**

Body camera, dash camera, and pictures available.

End of report. NO04