

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

MAY 21, 1980

**CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON
ORDINANCES**

Notice is hereby given that a PUBLIC HEARING is scheduled to be held for WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1980 at 8:00 o'clock P.M. D.S.T.) in the Chamber of the City Council, City Hall, Providence, Rhode Island.

The meeting will be concerned with the following:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 4-37 (a) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RELATIVE TO CERTAIN TYPES OF DOGS, BY CREATING SECTIONS 4-53, 4-54 AND 4-55 OF SAID CODE.

All persons interested in the above are respectfully requested to be present at that time and place to be heard thereon.

**PER ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINANCES,
COUNCILMAN VINCENT J. CIRELLI, Chairman.
COUNCILMAN EDWARD W. XAVIER, Vice-Chairman.
COUNCILMEN: HARRY A. JOHNSON
THOMAS M. GLAVIN
WILLIAM J. MOISE
LAURENCE K. FLYNN
THOMAS W. PEARLMAN**

ROSE M. MENDONCA, City Clerk.

The Committee on Ordinances meets this day, in the Chamber of the City Council to conduct a Public Hearing.

PRESENT: Councilman Vincent J. Cirelli, Chairman, and Councilmen Xavier and Flynn. (Also present John Rotondi, Deputy City Solicitor, and Michael R. Clement, First Deputy City Clerk.)

Councilman Cirelli opens the meeting by introducing the members of the Committee and stating the purpose of this Hearing.

Chairman Cirelli also states that any people wishing to speak before this Committee will have to sign up with the Clerk.

Chairman Cirelli calls for a recess of five minutes, in order that those people present who wish to speak for for against the proposed Ordinances.

Meeting re-convened at 8:20 o'clock P.M.

Chairman Cirelli calls upon Joan Carroll of 76 Dixwell Avenue, Cranston, R.I. Mrs. Carroll steps forward and states that pit bulls are gentle house pets, and wonderful with children, and they are not killers as they have often been portrayed, but they have a characteristic that

MAY 21, 1980

has led some people to train them for dogfights.

Ms. Carroll further stated that they have strong jaws, stronger than any other dog, so a pit bull trained to fight is a tougher dog than any other.

Ms. Carroll also stated that if the proposed Ordinance is approved the only people who will adhere to it will be law abiding citizens who never trained their dogs to fight in the first place. This Ordinance should be aimed at the people who mistreat pit bulls and train them to fight and be vicious. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee for your time.

Chairman Cirelli calls upon Mrs. Kathlean McCrillis of 25 Klondike Street, Providence, R.I. Mrs. McCrillis states that she has a pit bull and he is very lovable.

Mrs. McCrillis also stated that she has sent her dog to obedience school, where he was with twenty other dogs and there never was any kind of an incident.

Mrs. McCrillis concluded by stating that there are a lot of security agencies that use German Shepards and Doberman Pinschers. Are they vicious too? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Cirelli calls upon Sgt. Arthur Dwyer, Chief Dog Officer. Sgt. Dwyer steps forward and states that this problem has become a fad, and there are a lot of clowns in the City who have dogs that are half-trained to attack, and they seem to get a kick out of watching the dogs fight or attack people.

Sgt. Dwyer further states that the pit bull is a courageous dog with powerful jaws, but a lot of people

MAY 21, 1980

have adopted it as a status symbol. There are also a lot of people buying them for the purpose of watching their homes, and the problem is that they are buying them from the fly-by-night trainers.

Sgt. Dwyer also mentions that the Ordinance should not be aimed at pit bulls but rather at all vicious dogs.

Councilman Flynn, a member, suggested that the City Council should ask the General Assembly to make it a felony to train dogs to fight.

Councilman Cirelli, Chairman, said the Committee will consider that the testimony taken here tonight will be recorded and taken up at its next scheduled meeting, in about two or three weeks. Thank you for coming.

ADJOURNMENT is taken at 8:45 o'clock P.M.

Copied JL
Compared MA

Assistant Clerk
Michael R. Clement