

Reply to Common Council File No.010558

From DOA-Budget and Management Division

January 14, 2002

Ref: 02017

Common Council file No. 010558 is a substitute resolution relating to the control of pit bull and Rottweiler dogs. This ordinance revision would be implemented and enforced by the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS), Nuisance and Environmental Health Division. It would require the department to ensure that Pit Bulls and Rottweilers returned to owners by the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC) and those involved in citizen complaints or bite reports are compliant with the fencing, training and leashing standards of the ordinance.

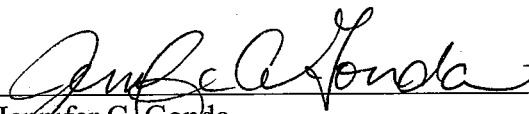
At present, the Nuisance Control staff consists of 17 full-time equivalent positions, responsible for approximately 24,000 litter, automobile and animal inspections annually. Each case takes an average of 2 to 2 ½ hours of time to complete the inspection, issue orders, and complete reports. At current staffing levels, this is a workload of about 1,400 cases per year. With this workload, the Nuisance Control staff is currently operating above capacity, making it difficult to absorb extra responsibilities.

The department anticipates that the revised ordinance will create 900-1000 more incidences where a Nuisance Control Officer is required to perform an animal inspection. This will result in an additional 1800-2000 hours of work annually, justifying one additional Nuisance Control Officer position at a cost of \$49,170 for 2002. The Nuisance Control section currently performs about 2910 animal control related inspections each year.

The fiscal note indicates that funds will need to be appropriated from the Contingent Fund for expenses related to this ordinance. It is difficult to make the argument that this file meets the emergency or obligatory criteria set forth for Contingent Fund requests. Funding for this file is therefore limited to absorbing it into the existing DNS budget. This would require the department to hold positions vacant in other areas and to absorb the operating and equipment expenditures.

Expanding the responsibilities and expenses for a department should remain as part of the budgeting process. Therefore, it would be more appropriate to include this provision as part of the 2003 budget.

RECOMMENDATION: PLACE COMMON COUNCIL FILE NO. 010588 ON FILE.



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FINANCE: 010558sr.doc