## City Council Discussion

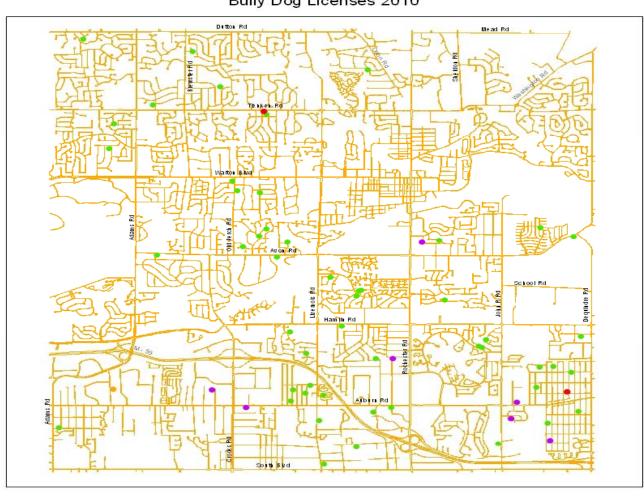
Dangerous Animal Ordinance October 18, 2010

#### The Question.....

- Do we deal with dangerous animal issues as they arise? Or...
- Do we develop a more restrictive ordinance that attempts to limit the number of incidents?

### 76 Licensed Pit Bull dogs in Rochester Hills





#### Legend

- 1 Dog
- 2 Dogs
- 3 Dogs
- 4 Dogs

5198 Licensed dogs in the city

#### Four options to consider

- 1. Rely on current ordinance and State law.
- 2. Rely on current ordinance and state law with specific restrictions on Pit Bull dogs.
- 3. Ban Pit Bull dogs over time.
- 4. Completely ban Pit Bull dogs.

### 1. Rely on current ordinance and State law

- Deals with problem animals when an incident occurs.
- Court has authority to order the dangerous animal put down or place significant restrictions on the owner.
- This method was used in the Harrison case earlier this year.

# 2. Rely on current ordinance and state law with specific restrictions on Pit Bull dogs

- Deals with problem animals when an incident occurs.
- Court has authority to order the dangerous animal put down or place significant
- Identifies the Pit Bull as a public safety concern.
- Places specific restrictions on Pit Bull dogs.

### Types of restrictions

- Be under the control of a person at least 18 years of age.
- Be held on a leash of adequate strength to hold the dog when in public
- Have a muzzle over its jaws sufficient to prevent the animal from inflicting any bit upon another person or animal

### Types of restrictions

- Obtain liability insurance on the property of no less than one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars coverage.
- Specific requirements for the construction of dog pens when the dog is housed outside.

#### 3. Ban Pit Bull dogs over time

- Identifies Pit Bull dogs as a public safety concern.
- Does not allow any new Pit Bull dogs in the city after a specific date.
- Allows current Pit Bull dogs to remain until they pass, with specific restrictions.

## Additional restrictions for banning Pit Bull dogs over time

- Identifying tattoo on the dog, registered with the state department of agriculture. Once the dog has died, then no other Pit bull dogs may reside at the home.
- If a judge rules that the Pit Bull dog, exempted by the ordinance, is deemed a dangerous animal because of a complaint, the dog loses its exemption from the ordinance.
- Puppies born in the home must be removed as soon as they turn six (6) month's old.

### 4. Completely Ban Pit Bull dogs

- Identifies the Pit Bull dog as a public safety concern.
- Requires current owners of pit bull dogs to remove dog(s) from the city.

#### Enforcement

- Option 1: Current ordinance
- \* No change
- Option 2: Current ordinance with restrictions
- \* Complaint based enforcement
- \* Minimal change in workload

#### Enforcement

- Option 3: Ban over time
- Option 4: Complete Ban
- \*Difficult to enforce
- \* Would require reducing the level of enforcement in other areas

#### **Important Note**

There is no ordinance or restriction that can totally prevent a Pit Bull dog or other dangerous animal attack from occurring.

#### Dog Bites reports 2009

- Bassett 1
- Bichon Frise 1
- Boxer 2
- Chihauhau 1
- Chow 1
- German Shep 2
- ▶ Hound 1
- Jack Russell 1
- Labrador 2

Maltese 1

Miniture Pinsher 1

Papillon 1

Pit Bull 3

Schnauzer 1

Terrier 1

Total 20

#### Dog Bite reports 2010

- Beagle 1
- Bichon Frise 1
- Border Collie 1
- Boxer 1
- Brittany Span 1
- Chihauhau 1
- Chow 1
- Cockapoo 1
- German Shep 1

Golden Retr. 1

Labrador 2

Malamute 1

Miniature Pinscher 2

Mix 1

Pit Bull 1

Rotwieller 1

Schnauzer 1

Springer 1

Shar Pei 1

Total 21

## City Council Discussion

Dangerous Animal Ordinance October 18, 2010