

Rosenson, Valerie

From: Eileen Heaphy <eheaphy@optonline.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2016 5:55 PM
To: Rosenson, Valerie
Subject: Fwd: Breeders ordinance

Can you please print up the message below for tonite's meeting? My laptop is dead and I don't know why so I cannot print it up. Thx, Eileen

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: eheaphy@stamfordCT.gov
From: Paula Keller <Paula.Keller@NewBritainCT.gov>
Date: September 20, 2016 at 3:16:23 PM EDT
To: "eheaphy@stamfordCT.gov" <eheaphy@stamfordCT.gov>
Subject: Breeders ordinance

Hello Eileen,

My name is Paula Keller and I am the Sergeant in charge of Support Services for the city of New Britain and one of the divisions I oversee is Animal Control. I was recommended to contact you by Animal Control Officer Tilford Cobbs regarding the issue of the breeder's permit that Stamford is trying to get passed into a city ordinance. I began corresponding with Mr. Cobbs about a year ago when Stamford first began to explore a breeder's ordinance. We instituted a breeder's ordinance here in New Britain almost two years ago and Mr. Cobbs was looking for some guidance in how we went about getting our ordinance passed. Obviously, our breeder's ordinance is specific to New Britain and to the issues we have here in our city in regards to the over breeding of certain animals, specifically dogs. What we mainly wanted the breeder's ordinance to do was give us another tool on our belt to address the issue of backyard breeding and basement breeding of dogs which we see happening all over our city. Since laws and ordinances cannot be breed specific, nor written to target specific people, we had to come up with an ordinance to encompass everyone.

We have a very transient community here, meaning we have a lot of multi-family homes, and many of our residents are at or below the poverty level. Puppies are an easy way for some of these folks to make a quick buck. We see the results of this at our animal control facility where we frequently get the throw away female who has obviously been bred several times and then abandoned, or we get the young, male, pit bulls that were cute when they were little but ended up being too much work and were abandoned. Unfortunately, I would say eighty percent of the dogs that come into our facility are pit bulls, or 'bully' breed type dogs. These are the most common dog in our city, and the most over bred, not just in New Britain, but in most urban cities. There are very little regulations on breeding and we have no tools as far as state law to assist us in addressing this issue. That is why we felt the need to institute the breeder's ordinance. I knew when we did the ordinance that it would take a few years for people to realize we have a breeder's ordinance, and the recommendation from the common council was that we would give out verbal warnings for the first year it was instituted. I did not anticipate us getting a lot of requests for breeder's permits from professional breeder's or those who were breeding AKC dogs as I believe we only have two licensed kennels in our city, one of which was issued a ticket for violating the breeder's ordinance after the state received a complaint and an investigation revealed her

kennel was not up to code. To date, we have had a couple of inquiries from folks about getting a breeders' permit but we have not issued any. That does not mean the ordinance is ineffective. The effectiveness is in the enforcement, and in being able to use the ordinance to stop certain behaviors.

I understand that a JR McMullen has mentioned my name at your board meetings in reference to the breeder's permit, and I was quoted as stating that I wanted to eliminate breeding in our state altogether. That could not be further from the truth, and I find it insulting and appalling that I am being misquoted by a person I have never met, and have never spoke to until today. Mr. McMullen called my office this morning asking about our breeder's permit and he was quite abrasive. He accused me of raising the price of pet ownership by instituting a \$250 fee for the breeder's permit which he said would be passed on to the person purchasing the puppy. That may be true, but if someone is willing to pay between \$500-\$1200 for a puppy, which is the going price for some of these breeds, I do not think they would balk at an extra \$50. And if they do, maybe they should think about going to a local shelter where they can adopt a perfectly healthy, happy, loving dog for a total of \$50 which includes a state voucher to have it altered. Mr. McMullen also told me I was quoted in the New Haven register as stating that I wanted to eliminate all breeding in the state of CT. I told him I never said I wanted to eliminate breeding. What was printed in the New Haven register appears to be a misquote, as it says I wanted a state law against breeding. I am not against breeding, I am in favor of stricter regulations on breeding as there are very minimal laws covering this.

I am very open about my opinions and goals when it comes to animal control. As a state, we lack in a lot of areas when it comes to animal laws. Connecticut takes in about 18,000 abandoned animals each year. While some of these animals do get redeemed by their owners, the majority of them are never claimed and remain in shelters for months, waiting to get adopted. It is irresponsible to look at the thousands of abandoned animals and not recognize that we have a serious problem that is costing municipalities hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

The intent of this email is to hopefully clear up any misconceptions about who I am, what I stand for, and what my intentions are as far as animal laws. I feel very disparaged at having my name tossed around at public meetings by a person I have never met, and by the misquotes that are being said about me. I believe having stricter breeding regulations in our state would help save thousands of animals, ensure the health of animals being bred, and hopefully over time, save municipalities thousands of dollars on paying for all of the abandoned animals. I thank you for your time in reading this lengthy email.

Sergeant Paula Keller
New Britain Police Department
Support Services
10 Chestnut ST
New Britain CT
860-826-3079

NOTICE: This communication and the information within are intended solely for the addressee and may be legally privileged. The email and any files transmitted with it may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken, omitted or to be taken in reliance on it, is prohibited and may be unlawful. Accidental or unintentional transmission of this message does not waive any confidentiality or privilege. If you received this message in error, or are not the named recipient(s), please notify the originator immediately via reply email and delete this message along with any attachments.