

MINUTES

SEP 17 3 31 PM '87

LAW AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 27, 1987

City Council Chambers
915 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, California

The meeting was called to order at the hour of 2:36 p.m. by Chairman Terry Kastanis.

PRESENT: Committee Members Kastanis, Bradley, Pope;
Councilman Serna.

ABSENT: Committee Member Shore.*

*Committeemember Shore arrived at 2:45 p.m.

1. Resolution to support the "Dimes Against Crimes" initiative.

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: RECOMMEND SUPPORT.

REPORTS BACK: NONE.

COMMITTEE ACTION: SUPPORTED.

VOTING RECORD: MOVED: BRADLEY; SECONDED: POPE
AYES: KASTANIS, BRADLEY, POPE
ABSENT: SHORE

MINUTES:

Lt. Jim White of the Sacramento Police Department, Inspections and Standards, was present to discuss this matter. He stated that this resolution would mean 2 million dollars to the Police Department from a small tax on liquor, and that statistics show that alcohol is involved in a high number of crimes in the City.

Committee Member Bradley moved, Pope seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to forward the resolution supporting the "Dimes Against Crimes" initiative to the full Council.

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2. Resolution relating to Police Department Fee and Charges for fingerprinting and processing.

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: RECOMMEND SUPPORT AND FORWARD TO COUNCIL.

REPORTS BACK: NONE.

COMMITTEE ACTION: SUPPORTED AND FORWARDED TO FULL COUNCIL.

VOTING RECORD: MOVED: POPE; SECONDED: BRADLEY
AYES: KASTANIS, POPE, BRADLEY

ABSENT: SHORE

MINUTES:

Diane Balter, Deputy City Attorney, was present to discuss this matter. She explained that this resolution would reduce the charge for fingerprinting from \$12.50 to \$10.00.

Committee Member Pope moved, Committee Member Bradley seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to support the resolution relating to Police Department Fee and Charges for fingerprinting and processing. This will now go before the full Council.

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3. An ordinance adding Article X, Chapter 6 of the Sacramento City Code, relating to pit bull dogs.

RECOMMENDATION OF STAFF: RECOMMEND SUPPORT AND FORWARD TO COUNCIL.

REPORTS BACK: NONE.

COMMITTEE ACTION: NO RECOMMENDATION. FORWARDED TO FULL COUNCIL.

VOTING RECORD: MOVED: BRADLEY; SECONDED: KASTANIS.
AYES: KASTANIS; BRADLEY.
NOES: POPE; SHORE.

MINUTES:

Diane Balter, Deputy City Attorney, was present to discuss this proposed ordinance. Also present was Ruben Mora, Chief Animal Control Officer. Attorney Balter explained that the City has a

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vicious dog ordinance, but that it is generally effective only after the dog has been involved in an incident (threatening, biting or attacking). In contrast, the proposed ordinance is designed to reduce the likelihood of a first incident involving pit bulls. She continued by explaining that available statistics have shown pit bull dogs to be a particular risk, and that the City of Sacramento has had problems with that breed of dog in the past.

*Dave Shore arrived at 2:45 p.m.

Attorney Balter discussed some of the serious dog bite incidents in the past in the City, and cited statistics relating to pit bull dogs compared to other breeds. She also discussed some successful ordinances enacted by other cities throughout the United States, from which this proposed ordinance was fashioned.

There was considerable discussion between Attorney Balter, Animal Control Officer Mora, and members of the Council concerning this proposed ordinance as relates to other dangerous breeds of dogs, the cited statistics, how the ordinance would be enforced, and what the procedure has been in the past relating to dog attacks.

At this time the meeting was turned over the members of the audience who were in favor of this proposed ordinance. Several people cited incidents involving pit bull dog attacks or fear of attack, including an employee of Pacific Bell and the U.S. Postal Service, and an attorney and his pit-bull-dog-bitten client.

Next, the Council members heard from those people who were against the proposed ordinance, including veterinarians, pit bull dog owners, dog trainers and breeders, and kennel clubs. Most of these people were in agreement that there should be a stronger vicious dog ordinance, but that it was unfair to have a breed specific ordinance. It was also emphasized that the majority of problems with vicious dogs is not with the dog, but with the dog's owner; irresponsible owners cause problems for the responsible owners, and this ordinance would not be effective in preventing problems with dogs with irresponsible owners, who most likely would not license the dogs or obtain the necessary insurance anyway.

After testimony from the audience, there was further discussion from the Councilmembers. Committee Member Bradley moved to support this proposed ordinance; Committee Member Kastanis seconded. There was no vote; however, there was further discussion. Then Committee Member Pope moved to table this matter for 30 days, and

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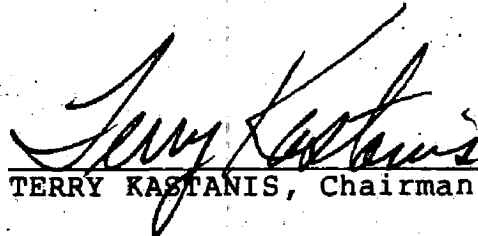
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it was seconded by Committee Member Shore. Committee Members Kastanis and Bradley voted against this motion, and it failed. The vote on the first motion, to support this proposed ordinance, was re-introduced: Moved, Bradley; seconded, Kastanis; Pope, no; Shore, no.

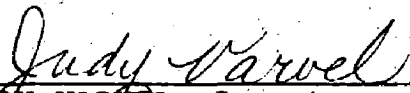
Because the vote was split 2-2 on the matter of the proposed pit bull dog ordinance, it will be brought before the City Council on September 8, 1987, with no recommendation from the Law and Legislation Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

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TERRY KASTANIS, Chairman

ATTEST:


JUDY VARVEL, Secretary