

Adopted: January 14, 2020

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 04-2020**

Introduced by: Councilmember Scott Cecil

**Establishing a Lowest Law Enforcement Priority for Breed Specific Legislation
Prohibiting the Ownership or Harboring of “American Pit Bull Terriers” in the
City of Mount Rainier**

Whereas, the County Code of Prince George's County, Maryland, Subtitle 3, Animal Control. Division 6. Other Rules, Regulations, and Standards, § 3-185.01 Pit Bull Terriers, establishes that “no person shall own, keep, or harbor a Pit Bull Terrier within the County,”

Whereas Chapter 14 section 101 of the Municipal Code for the City of Mount Rainier establishes the appointment of the City Manager as the Animal Control Officer for the City of Mount Rainier,

Whereas Chapter 14 of the Municipal Code of the City of Mount Rainier establishes animal control-related municipal infractions that are enforceable by the City’s Animal Control Officer and the Mount Rainier Police Department,

Whereas, the prohibition on owning or harboring Pit Bull Terriers has been ineffective in Mount Rainier and across Prince George’s County,

Whereas, residents of Mount Rainier, who are responsible owners of Pit Bull Terriers, other “bully breeds,” and mixed breed dogs who may appear to law enforcement officers or animal control officers to violate the breed-specific legislation, live in fear of financial penalties, imprisonment, or loss of their pet to euthanasia,

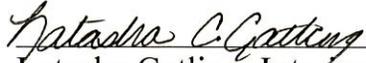
Whereas, the City Animal Control Officer and the personnel of the Mount Rainier Police Department exercise discretion and prioritization of enforcement action by declining to refer residents of Mount Rainier, for being in violation of the County Code of Prince George's County, Maryland, Subtitle 3, Animal Control, Division 6, Other Rules, Regulations, and Standards, § 3-185.01 Pit Bull Terriers, to County Animal Control authorities unless public safety is being impacted.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF Mount Rainier that;

1. The Animal Control Officer of the City of Mount Rainier shall deprioritize, to the greatest extent possible, referral of any resident of the City of Mount Rainier to County law enforcement agencies for the imposition of criminal penalties on persons who are found to be in violation of the County Code of Prince George's County, Maryland, Subtitle 3, Animal Control, Division 6, Other Rules, Regulations, and Standards, § 3-185.01 Pit Bull Terriers.
2. The Animal Control Officer of the City of Mount Rainier shall instruct the Mount Rainier Police Department to deprioritize, to the greatest extent possible, referral of any resident of the City of Mount Rainier to County law enforcement agencies for the imposition of criminal penalties on persons who are found to be in violation of the County Code of Prince George's County, Maryland, Subtitle 3, Animal Control, Division 6, Other Rules, Regulations, and Standards, § 3-185.01 Pit Bull Terriers.
3. This Resolution is no way hinders the City Animal Control Officer any employee of the Mount Rainier police department police officer from enforcing, or referring for enforcement of the County Code of Prince George's County, Maryland, Subtitle 3, Animal Control, Division 6, Other Rules, Regulations, and Standards, § 3-185.01 Pit Bull Terriers such laws when necessary to protect the public.
4. The Animal Control Officer shall author and transmit notice of the passage of this resolution to relevant Prince George's County officials by April 1, 2020.

THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 14th DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.

Attest:



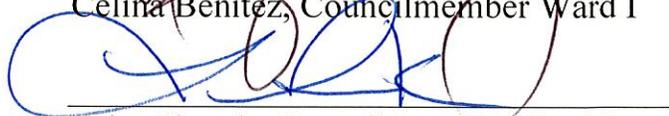
Latasha Gatling, Interim City Manager



Malinda Miles, Mayor



Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward I



Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward I



Scott Cecil, Councilmember Ward II



Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward II

