

MAR 06 2025

City council members :

03/06/2025

CITY CLERK

I am here today due to several people I have talked with or communicated with through social media. There are several individual's out there that fear retaliation from the city due to them volunteering their time and money to provide resources for the abundance of stray and feral animals on Terre haute streets. I think we all or most can agree that this issue was due to breeding after abandonment and lack of empathy for another one of gods defenseless creations. this was and still is a solvable situation with a humane solution. spade and neuter's. the city came to you requesting funding approval to expand the humane society for a low to no cost program but to this date no vet has been hired to preform this duty. That's like buying a car without the purchase of gas to run it. How much is is costing to heat and light that facility. Now the city wants to re enforce a decade old code. We wouldn't be in this situation if it was enforced when written and with spade and neuter we would more likely then not get things under control in another decade from now, but to punish the volunteers that has stepped up for the city and local governments lack of participation and assistance is unjust. The animals have a greatly reduced life span compared to humans so with a decade of altering, most would pass due to age. Why place a fee upon those volunteers that struggle to pay their bills and still find enough change to help the animals that are really only suffering due to human negligence. there wasn't even any exception or free registration for volunteers, disabled, veterans, those on fixed income, etc... The targeted group was collecting funds from those trying to help, the ones not caring will just tell enforcement " its not my animal" and if the city wants to enforce limits, then where are they planning on rehoming all of these animals ? everywhere I know says their over compacity. The city and code enforcement should want to encourage and support those willing to help with the pet population not fine or punish them. This will also instill confidence in the community with the leaders and bring stronger unity in relations. Please don't take this wrong or one sided as I care about dogs almost as much as felines but in a safety point of view. dogs are more of a threat to a variety of living beings, even mayor Sakbun stated at a 2025 crackerberry session that he had been aggressively approached by some dogs and if I remember correctly it wasn't just an isolated incident. Now for felines, I personally have never heard of a cat killing or mauling a pet and or a child. To me and I'm also praying that this council will agree that the priority of the public safety be toward removal of all the aggressive dogs running the streets of Vigo county, putting more resources into spade and neuter's to reduce pet population. The aforementioned should be a main priority to the community and for its safety by our officials. I ask, no I beg this council to table any fees or fines that discourage volunteers from helping these animals. Plus there's an issue of if somebody is helping more then 6 animals, they have to get a kennel license but according to zoning one must have their land zoned 0-1 and that's a process to get rezoned and most wont be approved in city limits, therefore there needs to be more research and amendments made before section 6 is approved for what's in the best interest of the community and the pet population. In closing if I could mention that the spade and neuter league is the second oldest organization in Vigo county, humane society being the oldest, and donations would greatly be appreciated for a person that has dedicated so many years of their life to help so many.

mailing address ; 1540 spruce St. Terre haute IN. 47807

contact land line phone # (812) 281 - 2108



**CITY COUNCIL :**

when city or county doesn't have a code or ordinance, one goes to state and then federal.

Example :

"jaywalking" (or "J-walking")

I couldn't find specific information about whether Terre Haute, Indiana, still has a "jaywalking" (or "J-walking") code in their city ordinances.

Indiana still has jaywalking laws. According to the Indiana Code Title 9, Article 21, Chapter 17, jaywalking is defined as crossing a roadway at a location other than a designated crosswalk or intersection, or disregarding pedestrian signals. Pedestrians must yield to vehicles when crossing outside these areas to prevent traffic disruptions and reduce accidents.

I personally have not heard of a person being charged with this infraction.

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The Full Faith and Credit Clause is found in Article IV, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution. It states:

> "Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records, and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof."

This clause requires that each state must recognize and respect the laws, records, and judicial decisions of other states.

The "public Acts" in Article IV, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution refer to the laws and statutes enacted by state legislatures. The Full Faith and Credit Clause mandates that these laws be recognized and respected by all other states. This means that if a state passes a law, other states must acknowledge and honor the legal status conferred by that law, even if their own laws differ.

For instance, if a state enacts a specific regulation or law related to business practices, marriage, or contractual agreements, other states are required to recognize and uphold those regulations and legal statuses when they interact with individuals or entities from the state that enacted the law.

**EXAMPLE :**

In Illinois, the allowable number of pets a person can have varies by municipality, as there is no statewide limit. Here are some examples from different cities:

Chicago: There is no official limit on the number of cats or dogs you can own, but you must provide adequate care for them.

Licensing: All dogs and cats over four months old must be registered with the Town of Cicero. Registration is free for Cicero residents and requires proof of rabies vaccination.

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There isn't a specific federal statute that sets a limit on the number of pets a person can have. However, there are federal laws that address pet ownership in specific contexts, such as public housing.

For example, 42 U.S. Code § 1437z-3 allows residents of public housing to own one or more common household pets, subject to reasonable requirements set by the public housing agency. These requirements may include limitations on the number of animals based on unit size or prohibitions on certain types of animals.

\*

The Terre Haute hasn't been enforced in decades. Now the local government wants to enforce it by punishing responsible pet owners with a fee that will further place strain and burden upon those who are barely surviving on fixed income, the poor, the disabled or the volunteers that feed and shelter the animals suffering on the streets due to human neglect and lack of empathy for other species of God's creatures.

The local government is punishing those doing the best they can to help these defenseless or abandoned animals. Most volunteers donate long hours, without pay and contribute necessities out of their own pocket. This could be construed as the government wanting revenue from those whom it put any extra funds they possess, after they pay their bills toward helping animals. The spot clinic was a good start and the city should do whatever means necessary to keep it going. Now the city spent money to expand the humane society and not 1 animal has been spayed or nurtured in that building. How long will it continue to sit without a vet and what is the monthly cost to run and heat that empty building and who is paying those costs? Whoever is paying the bills is wasting resources that could go toward spaying or nurturing.

#### FACTS :

The city is contracting a traveling vet, that money is not kept in the local economy and I doubt if they pay taxes to Vigo county.

The city states an amount to get your animal licensed and if you have more than 6 you must get a kennel license.

Most volunteers who do spay or nurture have their 6 plus extras that are getting ready to be fixed. Some for a month before can get a vet appointment then after altering there is about 3 days to make sure no infection or complications. Most will house the animal till weather permits a safe temperature or what if you have 6 animals and your parent has 6, they pass away, do you take your parent's animals or get rid of what has been made to feel like part of the family? The amount of animals should not become a factor unless they are not being cared for.

I spoke with zoning for information pertaining to kennel / cattery license. Code states you must be zoned O-1. It may be very difficult to get zoned O-1 in city limits.

There is no way to enforce code except on those trying to help these animals. The ones



that have pets and don't care will just tell code enforcement, they are not my animals and there's nothing code enforcement can do.

Bottom line is we have an abundance of animals needing our help. the shelters and non for profits are all full. Do not allow sec. 6 to interfere with those who are out there donating every minute of there spare time to help get the pet population under control. If the city really wants to help fix this problem they will allow free registration for residence, disabled, low income, poor, veterans and those who volunteer there services and remove the limit.

The city is just squeezing more money out of citizens already struggling. The Arbor millions, casino, taxes, reginal hospital, convention center, etc...etc... The city set a plan to have residence pay 1/2 the bill to get there sidewalks fixed so looks like the rich will get sidewalks while those struggling wont. there a lady with one leg by 16th and alley that has to use alley for her wheel chair and even with complaints the sidewalk is not fixed. The city needs to budget more efficiently to help more of the less fortunate and prioritize the budget. spade or nurture is the most humane solution, not fines or limits. Amend or table the code for a year so this board can see that with city support we can make a difference and see if in 2 years or 5 years or even 10 years as the population ages and passes away without further breeding solves the issue of over population. let those willing to fix what the city has been unable to fix have a chance to work with the city and get this issue resolved.

The mayor stated at the crackerberry session that he has been approached by aggressive dogs. There's constant reports and complaints made on aggressive dogs so unless one of the council members have ever heard of a cat mauling a human, the main focus and goal should be toward the stray dogs that are aggressive and would be of the greatest threat and concern toward citizens and beloved pets like cats and small dogs. The dog being registered or not would not of prevented :

On Monday - 02/03/2025 @ 4:00 PM,

Mark and Tricia Stephenson - who reside at E. Vigo Dr. (Across from richland manor)- allowed their Akita Dog to get loose AGAIN and then the Akita entered Richland Manor and attacked and KILLED a resident's Shih Tzu in their own driveway with a child present. The child tried to protect the Shih Tzu. The homeowners are devastated by the careless and reckless acts of the Stephensons family in allowing their Akita to continue attacking and killing other family pets.

Vigo County Sheriff's Department responded and has quarantined the Akita for the next 10 days.

The Stephenson dog has now killed 2 dogs and attacked many others in Richland Manor and this type of reckless ownership will no longer be tolerated.

Until the Akita is euthanized, please take extra precautions to protect yourself, your kids and your beloved pets.

No statements here today was directed toward any implications of the city council and any similarities are strictly coincidental.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.