



## AGENDA ITEM COVER

**MEETING DATE:** September 15, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Dog Park Policy

**AGENDA SECTION:** New Business

---

### BACKGROUND REVIEW:

Mr. Ari Freeman of 6429 Cates Ave. Apt. 1E in Ward 2 has contacted the City to express a concern about the dog park. It is Mr. Freeman's opinion that the dog park rules seem unfair and contradictory in that the park allows puppies of 4 months old and requires spay/neuter with no exceptions. Mr. Freeman stated that Vets do not currently recommend spay/neuter until 5-7 months of age. Mr. Freeman stated that he has called the parks department to request that my 4-month-old puppy be allowed to use the park with the agreement that she will be spayed at 6 months as recommended by her vet and been denied. Mr. Freeman feels that it is unfair to be denied use of the park when he is caring for his dog according to veterinary recommendations. Mr. Freeman stated that he has done research on other local dog parks, including Olivette, Maplewood, and Tree court, and has been unable to find any other local dog park with this regulation. The three examples provided one park requires spay/neuter by 8 months; the other two do not require it at all and only ban females while in heat.

Mr. Freeman feels that a change in the University City dog park rules would better support dog owners in caring for their dogs under the most current veterinary recommendations in a way that balances exercise and socialization needs with spay/neuter concerns. Accordingly, Mr. Freeman feels that a change in the University City dog park rules would better support dog owners in caring for their dogs under the most current veterinary recommendations in a way that balances exercise and socialization needs with spay/neuter concerns.

### FINDINGS:

Staff has reviewed the rules & regulations of several municipal dog parks in the area and found that all but two (Chesterfield and Olivette) require puppies to be at least 6 months old. Furthermore, all of them require dogs to be spayed or neutered except for one (Olivette), who states that the dogs should be spayed or neutered.

### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Dog Park Rules & Regulations