

Potentially Dangerous & Vicious Dogs

Public Works Department

Public Safety Committee September 21, 2016

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BACKGROUND

Potentially Dangerous

- The dog has once aggressively pursued, attacked, bitten, or otherwise caused a less than substantial injury to a person engaged in lawful activity;
- 2. The dog has once aggressively pursued, attacked, bitten, or otherwise caused a less than substantial injury to another animal; or,
- 3. The dog is found actively pursuing livestock, poultry, dogs, cats, or animals.



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BACKGROUND

Vicious

- 1. The dog was seized under Section 599a of the Penal Code and the owner or keeper was convicted of felony dog fighting charges;
- 2. The dog, when unprovoked, inflicts injury on or kills a human being or animal; or,
- 3. The dog is currently listed as a potentially dangerous dog, but continues the behavior.



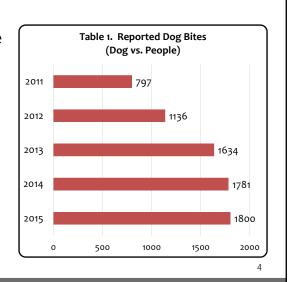
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DISCUSSION

- Dog attacks are on the rise.
- 3,640 reported incidents within the City in 2015

 1,800 of which resulted in injuries to people.



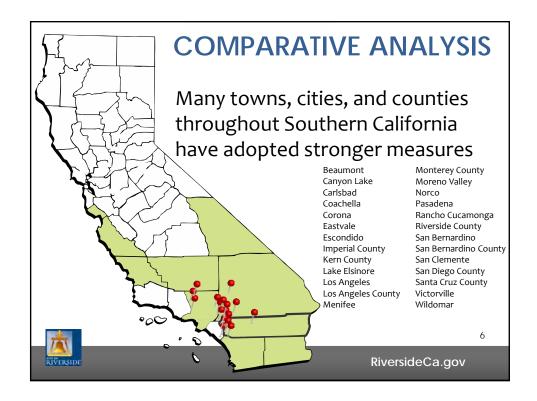
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DISCUSSION

- As of May 5, 2016, there are 441 dogs in the City designated as <u>potentially</u> <u>dangerous</u> or <u>vicious</u>.
- 169 received the designation in 2015.



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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

A look at 26 SoCal jurisdictions revealed that:

- 5 can charge higher annual license fees
- 18 can charge an annual fee in addition to annual licensing
- 11 require liability insurance
- 2 prohibit entry into their jurisdiction
- 4 impose designation longer than 36 months
- 14 require surprise compliance inspections



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POTENTIAL CHANGES TO CITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Impose a \$125 annual license fee for potentially dangerous or vicious dogs;
- 2. Extend the potentially dangerous dog designation from 36 months to 48 months (vicious dogs remain on the list for life);
- 3. Ban potentially dangerous or vicious dogs from moving to the City of Riverside;



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POTENTIAL CHANGES TO CITY REQUIREMENTS

- 4. Impose administrative fine for violating the ban prohibiting potentially dangerous or vicious dogs from entering the City;
- 5. Require owners to obtain \$100,000 liability insurance; and
- 6. Adopt administrative fines for each violation of the requirements imposed on potentially dangerous and/or vicious dogs.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Public Safety Committee review the current policy on potentially dangerous and vicious dogs and consider potential amendments to Title 8 of the RMC.



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