



★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

62

Date May 18, 2009

Request from Wendy Walker Rains, 1915 York Street, to speak regarding vicious dogs and animal license fees.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ to

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
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TOTAL				

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**Rauh, Diane I.**

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**To:** Bergman, Bruce E.; McDowell, Lawrence R.; Clark, Richard A.; Bradshaw, Judy A.; Raudabaugh, Scott A.  
**Cc:** Baumgartner, Laura L.; Deery, Sandi L.; Main, Linda S.  
**Subject:** May 18th Request to Speak  
**Attachments:** vicious dog.doc

This will be on Monday's agenda. Please be sure to read her letter, (attached).

Her proposal to raise the fee to license a pitbull is an idea we proposed to the Fee Study consultant.

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**From:** councilSpeak@dmgov.org [mailto:councilSpeak@dmgov.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2009 4:04 PM  
**To:** rainsws@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Request to Speak

## **Registration Form to Speak at City Council Meeting**

To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of Des Moines, IA  
C/O City Clerk

I/We *Wendy Walker Rains*, hereby request permission to speak at the Des Moines City Council Meeting of *Monday, May 18, 2009*, regarding

Vicious dogs and animal license fees

**Name:** Wendy Rains

**Address:** 1915 York St

**Daytime Phone:** (515) 490-8901

**Email Address:** rainsws@yahoo.com

### **Procedural Rules of Des Moines City Council**

#### Part III. Agenda

##### *Rule 16. Citizen Agenda Requests.*

Any citizen may request the right to have an item placed on the Agenda (including a request to speak) by filing such request in writing with the City Clerk prior to noon on the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting.

#### Part V. Citizen Participation

##### *Rule 27. Citizen's Right to Address Council.*

I have become quite familiar with the vicious dog portion in Chapter 18 in the Municipal Code. My dog was attacked by a pit bull on April 24, 2009, while we were out for a walk. The pit bull escaped through a hole in a fence. It was a horrifying experience. It took four men to remove the pit bull from my dog's throat. The pit bull's owner did not meet the secure fence or containment requirements in Section 18-56 of the Municipal Code. The administrative hearing on the pit bull will be held on May 14. The recommendation of the Animal Control officer is to destroy the pit bull.

After many conversations with various city employees I understand the impact of the fiscal shortfalls and the difficult decisions that have faced the City of Des Moines. There are not sufficient funds to properly enforce the existing code pertaining to vicious dogs. The pit bull that attacked my dog had been picked up by Animal Control two weeks prior to the attack. The owner did not have proof of rabies vaccination or insurance. He did obtain these in order to regain possession of the dog. He did not have the containment required in Sec 18-56 and Animal Control staff did not have the resources to confirm the dog was in compliance with the Code. Had adequate resources been available, my dog may not have been attacked. What compels me to speak with you is the memory of the attack and the knowledge that the animal would have killed a child had that been its intended victim.

I understand the difficulties in banning an activity like owning a pit bull may be. I encourage the Council to explore an alternate round of expanding the existing animal license fees program. Develop a separate fee structure for vicious dogs that will adequately fund the program. I was told that there are 300 licensed pit bulls in Des Moines. While an increased fee will not change the situation with unlicensed pit bulls in the City, it would dramatically help the Animal Control staff provide increase protection for the citizens of Des Moines. I urge you to consider this as a public safety measure. Please do so before someone else is attacked. I cringe every time I see a headline on a pit bull attack. I do not want to see one in our local media.

Thank you for your time.

Wendy Rains

1915 York Street

Des Moines, IA 50316