

INTRODUCED: February 10, 2020

A RESOLUTION No. 2020-R012

To request that the Mayor propose a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget that provides for an appropriation to the Office of Animal Care and Control to provide for two new animal control officer positions for the purpose of improving the enforcement of City Code § 4-243, concerning the prohibition against dogs running at large and the penalty therefor.

Patron – Mrs. Robertson

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: MAR 9 2020 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, section 4-243 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, prohibits all dogs from running at large and dictates that they must be confined by means of a fence, tether, or leash; and

WHEREAS, according to the document entitled “Bandy Field Off-Leash Dog Report,” prepared by the Friends of Bandy Field, and undated, of the 1,358 dogs observed at Bandy Field Nature Park from May, 2019 to November, 2019, 1,059 or approximately 78 percent of them were off leash; and

AYES: 8 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: MAR 09 2020 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, upon information and belief of the Council, patrols of City parks by animal control officers to improve enforcement of section 4-243 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, concerning the prohibition against dogs running at large and the penalty therefor, could be increased with the addition of two animal control officers to the Office of Animal Care and Control; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council request that the Mayor propose a General Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, that provides for an appropriation to the Office of Animal Care and Control to provide for two new animal control officer positions for the purpose of improving the enforcement of section 4-243 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, concerning the prohibition against dogs running at large and the penalty therefor;

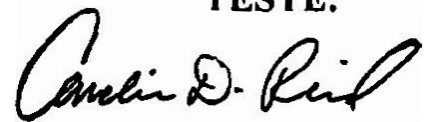
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council requests that the Mayor propose a General Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, that provides for an appropriation to the Office of Animal Care and Control to provide for two new animal control officer positions for the purpose of improving the enforcement of section 4-243 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2015), as amended, concerning the prohibition against dogs running at large and the penalty therefor.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:



City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell Brown, Interim Richmond City Attorney
Richmond Office of the City Attorney

THROUGH Lawrence R. Anderson
Council Chief of Staff *LR*

FROM Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst *SA*

COPY Ellen F. Robertson, 6th District Representative
Meghan K. Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff *MKB*

DATE January 23, 2020

PAGE/s 1 of 2

TITLE Funding for Two Animal Control Officer Positions

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2020
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an Ordinance Resolution

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Ellen F. Robertson, 6th District Representative

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Government Operations

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The Patron requests that the Mayor includes funding in the FY 21 budget for two new Animal Control Officer positions. It is the intention of the Patron that these new positions would assist in the enforcement of the City's leash laws for dogs.

BACKGROUND

Summary:

- Section 4-243 of the City Code dictates that dogs may not "run at large" within the City, and must be confined by a fence, tether, or leash.
- At the December 9, 2019 City Council Meeting, Charles Price, President of the Friends of Bandy Field, requested the hiring of two additional Animal Control Officers in order to address the issue of off leash dogs at the Bandy Field Nature Park.
- The Friends of Bandy Field conducted a study from May 2019 to November 2019, and found that 78% of 1,358 dogs observed at the park were off leash.
- Animal Care and Control has indicated that they could increase their patrols of parks with two additional officers. It is noted that all Animal Care and Control officers work on a structured priority calls policy. Meaning calls regarding animal abuse and human injury take precedence.

- Animal Care and Control is currently funded for 4 Animal Control Officers
 - Animal Control Supervisor
 - Animal Control Supervisor
 - Animal Control Officer, Senior
 - Animal Control Officer
- The City of Richmond has 3 dog parks that allow for canine pets to be off leash within their confines.
 - Northside Dog Park at Pine Camp Park
 - Barker Field Dog Park at Byrd Park
 - Churchill Dog Park at Chimbarazo Park

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact:		
The Patron is requesting funding for two FTEs within Animal Care and Control.		

Attachment/s Yes No

Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 10.5.2012 /sn

Bandy Field Off-Leash Dog Report

Day	Date	Time	Dogs Off Leash	Dogs On Leash	Military Time
Friday	17-May	506pm	9	1	17:06
Saturday	18-May	4pm	4	2	16:00
Sunday	19-May	550pm	4	1	17:50
Monday	20-May	531pm	3	2	17:31
Tuesday	21-May	405pm	9	3	16:05
Wednesday	22-May	350pm	5	0	15:50
Thursday	23-May	515pm	2	4	17:15
Friday	24-May	1035am	3	0	10:35
Saturday	25-May	6pm	1	1	18:00
Sunday	26-May	4pm	1	0	16:00
Monday	27-May	9am	0	0	9:00
Tuesday	28-May	745pm	5	2	19:45
Wednesday	29-May	830am	5	0	8:30
Thursday	30-May	11am	3	1	11:00
Friday	31-May	1035am	3	1	10:35
Saturday	1-Jun	450pm	6	1	16:50
Sunday	2-Jun	515pm	2	3	17:15
Monday	3-Jun	6pm	9	0	18:00
Tuesday	4-Jun	645pm	10	1	18:45
Wednesday	5-Jun	1045am	0	1	10:45
Thursday	6-Jun	1110am	3	1	11:10
Friday	7-Jun	435pm	9	0	16:35
Saturday	8-Jun	1257pm	4	3	12:57
Sunday	9-Jun	1pm	4	1	13:00
Monday	10-Jun	245pm	0	2	14:45
Tuesday	11-Jun	630pm	8	2	18:30
Wednesday	12-Jun	450pm	2	3	16:50
Thursday	13-Jun	230pm	2	1	14:30
Friday	14-Jun	310pm	7	2	15:10
Saturday	29-Jun	215pm	9	3	14:15
Sunday	30-Jun	7pm	5	2	19:00
Monday	1-Jul	615pm	1	1	18:15
Tuesday	2-Jul	520pm	6	1	17:20
Wednesday	3-Jul	730pm	6	1	19:30
Thursday	4-Jul	7pm	3	1	19:00
Friday	5-Jul	310pm	7	2	15:10
Thursday	11-Jul	715pm	2	2	19:15
Friday	12-Jul	130pm	1	1	13:30
Saturday	13-Jul	640pm	5	2	18:40
Sunday	14-Jul	615pm	2	1	18:15
Monday	15-Jul	545pm	8	3	17:45
Tuesday	16-Jul	612pm	3	1	18:12
Wednesday	17-Jul	9pm	3	1	21:00
Friday	19-Jul	645pm	2	1	18:45
Saturday	20-Jul	530pm	0	1	17:30
Sunday	21-Jul	430pm	3	2	16:30
Monday	22-Jul	1035am	0	1	10:35
Wednesday	24-Jul	645pm	7	1	18:45

Thursday	25-Jul	1030am	6	1	10:30
Saturday	27-Jul	515pm	3	1	17:15
Sunday	28-Jul	1210pm	7	2	12:10
Monday	29-Jul	710pm	3	1	19:10
Tuesday	30-Jul	545pm	4	1	17:45
Wednesday	31-Jul	5pm	2	1	17:00
Thursday	1-Aug	7pm	3	1	19:00
Friday	2-Aug	420pm	0	3	16:20
Saturday	3-Aug	550pm	0	1	17:50
Sunday	4-Aug	115pm	1	3	13:15
Monday	5-Aug	645pm	4	2	18:45
Tuesday	6-Aug	430pm	3	1	16:30
Wednesday	7-Aug	230pm	0	1	14:30
Thursday	8-Aug	525pm	2	2	17:25
Friday	9-Aug	430pm	11	1	16:30
Saturday	10-Aug	7pm	2	1	19:00
Sunday	11-Aug	105pm	7	2	13:05
Monday	12-Aug	712pm	7	2	19:12
Tuesday	13-Aug	4pm	1	4	16:00
Wednesday	14-Aug	1245pm	4	1	12:45
Saturday	17-Aug	715pm	2	2	19:15
Sunday	18-Aug	515pm	7	2	17:15
Monday	19-Aug	115pm	0	1	13:15
Tuesday	20-Aug	6pm	4	4	18:00
Wednesday	21-Aug	230 pm	0	1	14:30
Thursday	22-Aug	540 pm	4	1	17:40
Friday	23-Aug	330 pm	3	1	15:30
Saturday	24-Aug	115pm	3	1	13:15
Sunday	25-Aug	125pm	9	1	13:25
Monday	26-Aug	315pm	0	2	15:15
Tuesday	27-Aug	125pm	0	1	13:25
Wednesday	28-Aug	12pm	0	3	12:00
Thursday	29-Aug	115pm	0	1	13:15
Friday	30-Aug	405pm	4	1	16:05
Saturday	31-Aug	105pm	1	0	13:05
Sunday	1-Sep	115pm	12	1	13:15
Monday	2-Sep	145pm	0	1	13:45
Tuesday	3-Sep	426pm	3	2	16:26
Tuesday	3-Sep	715pm	9	1	19:15
Wednesday	4-Sep	430pm	2	1	16:30
Thursday	5-Sep	330pm	4	2	15:30
Friday	6-Sep	11am	7	5	11:00
Monday	9-Sep	115 pm	9	1	13:15
Sunday	15-Sep	7pm	2	1	19:00
Monday	16-Sep	7pm	14	1	19:00
Tuesday	17-Sep	650pm	9	1	18:50
Wednesday	18-Sep	555pm	7	0	17:55
Thursday	19-Sep	830am	3	2	8:30
Friday	20-Sep	1035am	4	2	10:35
Saturday	21-Sep	6pm	3	1	18:00
Sunday	22-Sep	705pm	6	2	19:05

Monday	23-Sep	645pm	9	1	18:45
Tuesday	24-Sep	445pm	8	2	16:45
Wednesday	25-Sep	945am	2	1	9:45
Wednesday	25-Sep	515pm	6	9	17:15
Wednesday	25-Sep	545pm	8	4	17:45
Thursday	26-Sep	810am	3	0	8:10
Thursday	26-Sep	545pm	12	2	17:45
Friday	27-Sep	815am	7	0	8:15
Friday	27-Sep	9am	1	0	9:00
Saturday	28-Sep	740am	7	0	7:40
Sunday	29-Sep	1220pm	1	5	12:20
Monday	30-Sep	3pm	9	1	15:00
Tuesday	1-Oct	610pm	15	3	18:05
Wednesday	2-Oct	630pm	6	1	18:30
Friday	3-Oct	630pm	7	0	18:30
Thursday	3-Oct	630pm	16	5	18:30
Saturday	5-Oct	6pm	3	1	18:00
Sunday	6-Oct	615pm	4	0	18:15
Monday	7-Oct	635pm	1	0	18:35
Tuesday	8-Oct	730am	0	0	7:30
Tuesday	8-Oct	515pm	5	1	17:15
Wednesday	9-Oct	515pm	12	2	17:15
Thursday	10-Oct	545pm	12	0	17:45
Friday	11-Oct	715am	4	0	7:15
Friday	11-Oct	8am	7	0	8:00
Saturday	12-Oct	740am	5	1	7:40
Sunday	13-Oct	250pm	5	1	14:50
Monday	14-Oct	3pm	2	0	15:00
Monday	14-Oct	630pm	13	5	18:30
Tuesday	15-Oct	520pm	13	1	17:20
Tuesday	15-Oct	6pm	20	4	18:00
Wednesday	16-Oct	530pm	4	0	17:30
Wednesday	16-Oct	6pm	8	4	18:00
Thursday	17-Oct	915am	6	3	9:15
Thursday	17-Oct	3pm	2	0	15:00
Thursday	17-Oct	540pm	13	0	17:40
Friday	18-Oct	110pm	3	1	13:10
Saturday	19-Oct	740am	2	3	7:40
Sunday	20-Oct	112pm	3	1	13:12
Monday	21-Oct	745am	1	0	7:45
Tuesday	22-Oct	545pm	6	4	17:45
Wednesday	23-Oct	715pm	7	3	19:15
Sunday	24-Oct	5pm	4	4	17:00
Thursday	24-Oct	557pm	9	0	17:57
Monday	25-Oct	725am	0	0	7:25
Saturday	26-Oct	1145am	9	0	11:45
Saturday	26-Oct	530pm	7	0	17:30
Sunday	27-Oct	615pm	20	0	18:15
Tuesday	29-Oct	515pm	5	0	17:15
Tuesday	29-Oct	527pm	9	0	17:27
Tuesday	29-Oct	609pm	20	0	18:09

Off-Leash Dogs at Bandy Field Nature Park

By

Charles K. Price

President Newbille, Vice-President Hilbert, and other members of Richmond City Council:

I'm here to represent the Friends of Bandy field concerning a major problem we're experiencing at Bandy Field Nature Park, and one which we have experienced over a considerable period of time. The problem is Off-Leash Dogs, a violation of a City Park Ordinance. Our dog owner patrons are apprised in every way that their dogs must be kept under control, on leash, without exception, and the penalties for not doing so.

A related problem that needs to be addressed to assure that owners of Off-Leash Dogs are brought into compliance with the law is the number of Animal Control Officers that are available to observe violations, issue warnings, and write tickets. We have repeatedly requested the assistance of Animal Control Officers and have been repeatedly told that there are not enough officers available to enforce the Leash Law with the many other serious animal control problems that the City experiences. The Friends of Bandy Field has been referred to the Extra Duty Police Officers Program to control our Leash Law violations. The pay rate for this service is \$31per hour per officer with a four-hour minimum pay required, even if fewer than four hours per officer are worked. We can't afford the high cost of this service to control our Off-Leash problem.

We estimate that it would take two officers of the Animal Control Department no more than two hours, with the two hours rotated during each seven-day week, to control the Off-Leash problem at Bandy Field.

A problem caused by Off-Leash Dogs is that many elderly patrons are afraid that when the dogs are running and frolicking in groups they may run into those older patrons, possibly knocking them to the ground and injuring them. This often results in elderly patrons who are fearful of this type of occurrence to discontinue coming to the Park. This is also true of patrons with young children who fear that Off-Leash Dogs may injure their children. Off-Leash Dogs also occasionally chase after runners who jog around the perimeter of The Park and attempt to bite them.

A serious incident occurred a year ago when the frolicking of a group of Off-Leash Dogs turned into fighting among several of them. A nearby patron was caught up in the fracas and sustained several severe dog-bites that required medical treatment at a nearby hospital.

In closing, I wish to thank First District Councilman Andreas Addison for recently presenting our need for assistance with the Off-Leash Dog problem at Bandy Field to our City Administration. Also our thanks go to Parks Director Chris Frelke and Animal Control Department Director Christine Peters for providing us with possible ways to consider for helping to control the Off-Leash Dog problem at Bandy Field Nature Park. And finally, our thanks go to City Council for providing us with this opportunity to present our Off-Leash Dog problem to them in our search for a solution.

