



City of Rochelle Police Department

Memo

To: Interim City Manager McKinley
From: Eric Higby
Date: 022211
Re: Dangerous Dog Ordinance

Over the past year, the Rochelle area has experienced several dog attacks which attracted the attention of the media. One of these attacks (10-3813) was in Rochelle and it resulted in the victim canine being euthanized. In this incident, two pitbulls broke out of a fence and mauled a smaller dog that was in the yard. Upon checking our local ordinances, we found that we had few options for enforcement. In the event of one animal, usually a dog, repeatedly attacking other animals or people, we would have had few choices other than to issue a dog at large ordinance citation. That specific ordinance is geared toward dogs that habitually wander the city, and it would not appropriately address the gravity of repeated attacks.

The ordinance that was drafted with the assistance of Attorney Cooper will set forth a clear procedure for dealing with animals that bite or display an aggressive tendency. I am available to provide any additional background information if there is a need for it.