

From: [Ruth Stephens](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Fwd: Control of Animal Services Division back to the city
Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 7:54:28 AM

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I sent this a couple weeks ago and just wanted to make sure it is attached to Resolution 241043

I also wanted to address the training that KCPP puts into its AC officers. That same house, owner and one of the dogs was involved with an animal cruelty investigation 6 years ago under the city run animal control. The dogs were impounded until the situation was corrected where they were living. The owner paid the impound fees and got the dogs back. In our case, the officer that investigated our attack had only been working for 1 month. He said that they have to keep their euthanasia rate down and that they can't just take people's dogs from them. He also asked if my husband was showing signs of rabies and that a case towards the owner would have been stronger if I had sutures in my face. Subsequently, the force on my teeth from the bite will require 2 - 4 teeth removed and a bridge put in.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Ruth Stephens
(816) 606-2492
8134 Main St,
Kansas City, MO 64114

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ruth Stephens** <rstephens.1030@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 3, 2024 at 12:00 AM
Subject: Control of Animal Services Division back to the city
To: <public.testimony@kcmo.org>

My dog, husband and myself are just one of the many victims of negligence on the part of KCPP Animal Control Division. We were attacked by 2 dogs just a couple blocks from our house. Even though our dog almost died, my husband's hands and arm were bit and I was knocked down and bit in the face, KCPP didn't send an control officer out to follow up with us until 6 days later. Both dogs were adopted from KCPP and were not up to date on rabies vaccination. The dogs were never picked up and quarantined. Because of this, we were required to obtain the entire rabies series. KCPP only charged the owner with "public nuisance" charges and unlicensed dogs. The owner never showed up for his hearing so the court issued warrants. However, the prosecutor stated that police rarely follow up on animal charges.

What happened to us not only makes me scared to walk our dog or bike in our Waldo neighborhood, but feel that the authorities that are suppose to protect us from harm would not be there if this occurred again.

The fatal attack on Chris is heartbreaking and it is so sad that this had to happen to shine a spotlight on the extreme negligence of KCPP with the city's animal control division. Please do the right thing and return management of one of the most important community services back to city control. I have worked at Lakeside Nature Center for over 20 years and knew all the officers when it was under the city. They were by far the best group of employees and cared passionately about animals and upholding the law. We need to go back to that level of professionalism and accountability.

Thank you,
Ruth Stephens