

Animal Control Hearing

Minutes

Call to Order

10:00 AM Meeting called to order on Thursday, **July 16, 2026** at City Hall -- Room 205, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Melvin A. Edwards	Ward 3 Councilor	Present	
Keith Fleming	Police	Present	
Camile Nelson Campbell	Assistant City Clerk	Present	
Megan Landry	Board Member	Present	
Veronica Johns	Board Member	Absent	

Approval of Minutes

1. December 18, 2025 Minutes

Read.

Board Member Edwards made a motion to accept the minutes the motion was seconded by Board Member Landry.

Roll call votes on the motion

Board member Edwards	Yes
Board member Fleming	Yes
Board member Johns	Absent
Board member Landry	Yes
Board member Nelson Campbell	yes

Motion passed by roll call votes.

Minutes approved.

Dog Hearing

2. A Dangerous Dog Hearing For Three dogs named Prince, Diva and Luna Owned by Roberto Morat at 150 Elmore Ave.

Read.

Renee Robichaud and Elfred Mateo, Animal Control Officers for Thomas J. O'Connor (TJO) and Adoption Center read their reports.

Complainant

Silk Morrison stated he was bitten before and he just wants something to be done.

Respondent

Roberto Morat did not appear.

Rebuttal

None

Board Member Edwards made a motion to deem the dog named Luna as nuisance the motion was seconded by Board Member Landry.

Roll call votes on the motion

Board member Edwards	Yes
Board member Fleming	Yes
Board member Johns	Absent
Board member Landry	Yes
Board member Nelson Campbell	Yes

Motion passed by roll call votes.

After review of the hearing testimonies and the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center reports, the Committee has imposed the following conditions on Prince, Diva and Luna:

1. That all three (3) dogs in your household be licensed, vaccinated and registered, in accordance with c. 110 § 2 of the Code.
2. That **Luna**, be leashed and muzzled in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(9) of the Code.

Roll call votes on the conditions

Board member Edwards	Yes
Board member Fleming	Yes
Board member Johns	Absent
Board member Landry	Yes
Board member Nelson Campbell	yes

Conditions passed by roll call votes

3. A Dangerous Dog Hearing for a Dog named Niko Owned by Jose Garcia at 194 Pine St

Read.

Renee Robichaud and Elfred Mateo, Animal Control Officers for Thomas J. O'Connor (TJO) and Adoption Center read their reports.

Complainant

Cherrella Hicks stated she was walking her dog, Levi, when she noticed a big dog to her left coming towards her and her dog, Levi. She called out to the man and asked him to get his dog, and he just stood there and did nothing. She tried to grab and shield her dog, but the bigger dog snatched up her dog and began to fling her dog, Levi around like a stuffed toy. Again, she cried out for help at the man, and he just stood there and said he only works there and could not control the dog. The owner of the dog never came to her and asks how 's her dog, Levi. The worker called for a woman to take the dog, and she took the dog and fled the scene. She took her dog, Levi to the animal hospital in West Springfield, due to Levi's bite wounds, he had to be euthanized.

Respondent

Vanessa Hernandez spoke in Spanish and Elfred Mateo translated what she said.

Elfred translations stated that Jose Garcia is not the owner and he is no longer living in the country and that she owns the dogs over the years. She said she turned in the other dog to Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Shelter and she has Niko.

Rebuttal

None

Board Member Edwards made a motion to deem the dog named Niko as dangerous the motion was seconded by Board Member Landry.

Roll call votes on the motion

Board member Edwards	Yes
Board member Fleming	Yes
Board member Johns	Absent
Board member Landry	Yes
Board member Nelson Campbell	Yes

Motion passed by roll call votes.

After review of the hearing testimonies and the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center reports, the Committee has imposed the following condition on Niko:

1. That the dog be humanely euthanized, in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(8) of the Code

Roll call votes on the conditions

Board member Edwards	Yes
Board member Fleming	Yes
Board member Johns	Absent
Board member Landry	Yes
Board member Nelson Campbell	yes

Condition passed by roll call votes

Non-Compliance

4. A Non-Compliance Nuisance Dog Hearing for two (2) dogs named Starla and Sapphire Owned by David Benoit at 279 Garnet St

Read.

Renee Robichaud And Elfred Matos, Animal Control Officers for Thomas J. O'Connor (TJO) and Adoption Center read their reports.

Complainant

Cherryln

Respondent

David Benoit

Rebuttal

None

Board Member Edwards made a motion to deem the dogs named Starla and Sapphire as Dangerous dogs the motion was seconded by Board Member Fleming.

Roll call votes on the motion

Board member Edwards	Yes
Board member Fleming	Yes
Board member Johns	Absent
Board member Landry	Yes
Board member Nelson Campbell	Yes

Motion passed by roll call votes.

After review of the hearing testimonies and the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center reports, the Committee has imposed the following conditions on Starla and Sapphire:

1. That the dogs be humanely restrained, in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(1) of the Code;
2. That the dogs be confined to the premises of the owner; provided, however, that "confined" shall mean securely confined indoors or confined outdoors in a securely enclosed and locked pen or dog run area upon the premises of the owner; provided however, that such confinement shall comply with § 110-8 of the Code, in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(2) of the Code;
3. That, whenever removed from the premises of the owner, the dogs shall be securely and humanely muzzled and restrained with a leash having a minimum tensile strength of 300 pounds and not exceeding three feet in length, in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(3) of the Code;
4. That the dogs shall be surgically sterilized and microchipped with the microchip registered to the City, with all costs associated with these services to be borne by the owner, in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(4) of the Code;
5. That ownership of the dogs may not be transferred unless the transfer of ownership is to an adult residing within the same residence and the dog(s) shall remain housed solely at that residence, in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(6) of the Code;
6. That the owner maintains a well-maintained fence to keep the dogs secured on the property; TJO O'Connor and Adoption Center Officers will visit the property on Friday, July 17, 2026 to inspect the current fence and identify necessary improvements. TJO O'Connor officers will revisit the property seven days after you have received this letter to confirm that the identified improvements have been made, in accordance with c. 110 § 10(B)(9) of the Code.

Roll call votes on the motion

Board member Edwards	Yes
Board member Fleming	Yes
Board member Johns	Absent
Board member Landry	Yes
Board member Nelson Campbell	Yes

Conditions passed by roll call votes

