

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES' STATEMENT
ON THE APPROVAL OF THE ADDITION OF EMMA'S CLAUSE AND NEW PROVISIONS
TO THE XAVIER STRICKLAND DANGEROUS ANIMALS ORDINANCE**

(Detroit, MI – February 18, 2020) Today, after many months of meetings, negotiations, and public comment, the Detroit City Council unanimously approved my amendments to the **Xavier Strickland Dangerous Animals Ordinance** to include **Emma's Clause and other crucial provisions**. I previously attended the vigils and funeral services for both Xavier Strickland and Emma Hernandez. These heartbreaking events compelled me to take action to prevent another child or adult from being mauled to death by a dangerous dog and another citizen from having to bury their loved one.

The most crucial amendments are as follows:

1. Creation of **Emma's Clause** mandating an immediate response from the Department of Animal Care and Control and the owner to complaints.
2. Creation of the **Nuisance and Potentially Dangerous Classifications** to address threatening animal behavior prior to a vicious attack.
3. Creation of an **annual community engagement mandate** throughout the seven City Council districts, during the months prior to peak bite season, to inform and engage residents of laws and reporting mechanisms.
4. Creation of the **reckless dog owner classification** to restrict dog ownership for citizens who receive a certain number of violations based on the classification of the violation.

Additionally, the Administration has implemented the following enforcement enhancements:

- Residents now have the **313-922-DOGS hotline** to ask questions and report stray dogs.
- The addition of **9 more control officers** and **8 care technicians**.
- The **expansion of office and call center hours to 7am-7pm, 7 days a week**.
- **\$3 million** to be spent **upgrading** DACC shelter facility.
- General Services Department to run control side of operation, allowing Health Department to focus attention on animal care, adoption & licensing services.
- New director plans to **boost owner responsibility and licensing & adoption efforts** through an advertising campaign and outreach program.

Just as important as the legislation and the department's enforcement of this ordinance is the enforcement by the judicial system. I am committed to working with our judges and prosecutors to ensure they are aware of the changes to the ordinance; its enforcement tools; rights of citizens; and responsibilities of owners. Additionally, I will be working with our lobbyist to work with State Legislators to strengthen policies and increase fines and penalties for reckless and vicious dog owners.

Unfortunately, there are illegal actors in the canine industry. For example, those that harbor dogs for illegal gaming or utilize them as protection for illegal practices. There is no expectation that this ordinance will solve every dangerous issue, just as current laws do not prevent speeding, larceny or even murder. However, I am confident that this crucial piece of legislation acts as a robust tool to address dangerous animals on an administrative and legislative level.

I thank my colleagues, my staff, the City of Detroit's Law Department, the Animal Care and Control Department, and the many citizens who engaged in the drafting process. Each voice contributed to the creation of better, stronger and enforceable legislation.