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FEB 11 2014

CITY OF WEST ALLIS  
CLERK/TREASURER

From: Kerry Barkley  
Ref: Fancier permit for six dogs February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To Whom This Concerns,

This is an appeal to the four dog limit in West Allis. It is my family's sincere desire that after hearing our situation you will permit us to keep all six dogs and continue living here.

I, Kerry Barkley, bought my home at 2028 S. 76<sup>th</sup> Street in March of 2001 – 13 years ago. My mother lived with me until her death on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 2012. On occasion my sister Carolyn and her children also lived here. My mother ended up in a wheelchair. Since I am a disabled veteran, I alone could not care for her and so my sister helped out every day as both mom and I ended up having multiple surgeries as well as life threatening MRSA infections. Carolyn helped a great deal during my finger amputation as well as my other 27 surgeries. If I counted I'm sure my mother also had well over ten surgeries. My mother's death was a significant loss to all of us including the children who would play their violin and the piano daily for my mother.

My mother and I had two dogs Monty (5+ years old) and Jack (9 years on March 15th). Carolyn and her three children who also lived in West Allis have four dogs, all three years old. They are Sunny, Snowy, Breezy, and Teddy. These six dogs have been together frequently and are precious little companions to each other.

I am sure you are well aware of how difficult life can get and for Carolyn, a single mom, life was complicated when her son, now nine was born with disabilities that required much attention. She forfeited advancing in her own career so that she could be a stay at home mom and get her son all the attention he needed as well as help with our elderly mother and my health issues. While her son still has a cyst on his brain and could be more acceptable to seizures, we are all proud, especially him, of his 2013 graduation from needing an IEP. While there can never be a dollar value and the results of her choice are awesome, being a great mom, sister and daughter doesn't pay the rent and Carolyn has struggled financially. She and I feel it's a wise decision to combine households to give her opportunities she can't get while living on her own and proactively raising the three kids. They are a tremendous help to me. Carolyn has served West Allis as a Girl Scout leader, softball coach and elementary school volunteer.

Which brings us to our current situation. We have six delightful little canine creatures living in one house. Where the misunderstanding came in we can't remember, but we combined households under the misinformation that you could get a fancier permit for up to six dogs. If we lived in a duplex this would not be a problem as theoretically you could have 8 dogs. Unfortunately, we are a home-owner-family in a single home rather than a duplex of the same size with strangers and where the landlord/owner wouldn't even have to live there.

Understandingly, Carolyn, is upset that this complication has come up because she is mainly moved in and couldn't afford to move again, piggyback, the expenses of this move. When she tried to find out the appeal process she was told there was none and so we sought out the Alderman, who was wonderful in guiding us forward to this point. We want to make this right. If she had never mentioned the dogs you probably would have been none the wiser. It seems a terrible lesson to reward honesty, home ownership

and family by taking two dogs away or forcing people to live in difficult conditions when a large and loving home was available to them.

Carolyn has struggled to remain independent and while starting the process to get the fancier license last year she always seemed to be on the verge of moving here and couldn't afford duplicate efforts so she waited and was shocked when this started going so badly. We have been told that at this time we can not get a fancier permit. All six dogs are up to date on their licenses and shots and are in good health.

These dogs are inside dogs. Someone is at the house almost always. They are so loved and getting rid of two of them would be so excruciating to the kids (who have suffered much loss in their young lives), they equate it to getting rid of a family member. The dogs are well cared for. We have a fenced in yard and they do not run loose. We clean up as they go.

These dogs are good local consumers too. They go to a West Allis vet, a West Allis groomer, and buy their viddles from a West Allis store as well.

These are not large or nasty dogs. They are not outside for long and someone accompanies and cleans up after them. They are good for the local economy not to mention the family. There are three Shih Tzus, one Maltese/mini schnauzer, and two Jack Russell mixes.

My sister seriously feels the hardship of losing two dogs would be unacceptable and so she would move out of West Allis. A gesture that she cannot afford and would not be advantageous. I don't feel that as a thirteen year home owner in West Allis that such harsh treatment represents the town I was so happy to move in to.

I suspect there are good reasons for having a general restriction on how many dogs, but I hope I have shown that those concerns do not apply here and so the restriction should be adjusted to allow my family to keep their doggies and continue to be an asset to the West Allis community.

Optimistically, thanking you in advance for a favorable response and your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kerry Barkley  
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