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To whom it may concern,

Blitz (our dog) is extremely important to my wife Nikkita and I for many reasons. I fell in love with German Shepherd dogs after my first of two deployments to Afghanistan while I was in the US Army. I admired their loyalty, and sense of duty as a dog breed while working for us. After my deployment I moved in with my wife and proposed to her. One week after we got married we bought Blitz, and we were instantly in love with his personality. We raised him together, and we were doing everything we could to teach him to be a good dog. We never left his side, and he never left ours until I was called to deploy again leaving my new wife with my new dog. For eight months Blitz was my wife's only friend and companion while I was in Afghanistan yet again, and when I returned he jumped and barked with joy. I eventually left the Army and joined the Wisconsin National Guard to continue my education at UW Milwaukee. We lived in Franklin for a couple of years, but our rent climbed, and my wife had an accident making it too expensive to live there. We reluctantly moved into my parents after swallowing my pride. Quickly Blitz made this new house his home, and in the regular German Shepherd fashion he quickly learned his new pack (family) members.

My wife and I needed to get out together and took a vacation to North Carolina where I used to be stationed. We debated bringing Blitz with us, putting him in a kennel, or leaving him in my parents care. I asked my parents what we should do with him, and my parents assured us he would be in good care with them so we did. It's important to note that Blitz had lived with us in apartments up to this point, and we rarely had other people over to our place. On my niece's birthday there was a total of 11 people and another female dog in our small home, so I imagine Blitz was very anxious. My mother put both dogs upstairs in my brother's apartment because my niece is autistic and freaks out around dogs. My nephew came upstairs to play a game and was unaware the dogs were up there. My nephew made it halfway down the hallway and surprised Blitz, and Blitz proceeded to bite him. I don't believe my dog is vicious or dangerous I think he reacted poorly to a crazy new environment while we weren't even there

to prevent it. In hindsight we would have taken the dog with us like we had on many other trips.

Under the dangerous dog order we are forced to comply to Blitz is supposed to be out of the city by the 23rd of July or we would be fined \$1000 a day. We believe this level of order is unnecessary. We are currently looking to move to Franklin in mid august anyways, but under these conditions we don't have enough time to move. We would gladly follow the other orders on the list such as muzzling, short leash, and any other criteria. If we can't find a place outside of the city to move my wife plans on quitting her brand new job and taking Blitz to live with her, and her parents in Alaska while I stay here to go to school. We have already been split up enough because of my time on active duty and deployed. Putting our beloved dog down is not an option to us because he means too much to us. This all seems very unnecessary considering we weren't even home when the event happened. What I am asking is to be able to stay in the city while we search for a new home with our dog. As I stated earlier we will happily comply to the other orders on the list, even though we don't see them as entirely necessary either. He is a good dog overall, and just made a stupid mistake. My nephew was bit, and neither him nor his parents want the dog or us punished for this incident. My nephew is now healed perfectly fine only shortly after the incident. We also plan on taking Blitz to rehabilitation training to prevent this from ever happening again. I ask for your mercy, and I pray that my wife and I won't have to be apart again over something so trivial.

Thank you for your time,

Jonathan and Nikkita Melcher