



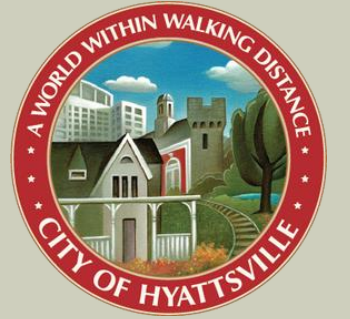
City of Hyattsville

Updates to the Animal Welfare &
Community Safety Act

Hyattsville Ordinance 2022-05

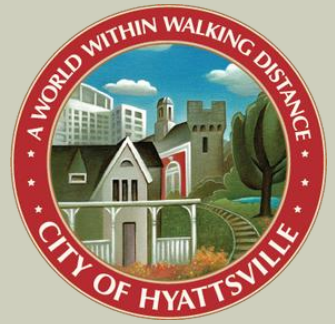


Background



In October 2021, Council authorized the City Attorney to draft an ordinance amending Chapter 52 of the City Code to update animal welfare provisions and clarify City response protocols for animal control complaints.

The resulting ordinance was initially discussed by Council on October 3, 2022. During that discussion, several areas for changes for changes were discussed. The ordinance returned for staff and attorney review, resulting in an updated draft.



Summary of Changes

The following changes were made since the last Council discussion.

- Added definitions of the following terms:
 - **Public Nuisance Animal** *(tracks with Section 52-5 of the Code as well as Prince George's County Code)*
 - **Public Threat**
 - **Service Animal** *(refers to MD State Code, Human Services Article 7-701(g))*
 - **Severe Weather** *(tracks with County Code 3-101(73))*
- Added written warning and citation procedures for tethering of dogs.
- Removed categories 1 & 2 as related to Public Nuisance Animal Violation
- Clarified term for public threat related to domesticated animals
- Added exception for service animals, Section 52-5(4)
- Added exception for K9 dogs, Section 52-5
- Replaced “violations” with “citation” for clarity in Section 52-12.



Next Steps

Ordinance: A first reading is scheduled for November 21, with adoption on December 5. The ordinance will be effective on December 25, 2022.

Staffing:

The animal control updates require hiring a part-time staff member to serve as the Animal Control Liaison. The Liaison will coordinate and follow-up with the agencies responsible for responding to, addressing, or receiving complaints of incidents within City limits. City staff has designated Cinthia Manzano in this role, reporting to the Director of Community Services.

Ms. Manzano will serve as the point of contact for residents who require additional information from Prince Georges County Animal Control Division and City departments and provide emergency and routine public information and notification when required.