

2023-112



Amesbury City Council
62 Friend Street
Amesbury, MA 01913

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CITY OF AMESBURY MA

Richard Joltes
147 Kimball Road
Amesbury, MA 01913
978-388-3738

Dear City Council,

My name is Richard Joltes, and I am requesting a dangerous dog hearing in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 140 section 157A. The dogs in question currently reside at 141 Kimball Road in Amesbury. I am requesting this hearing because of an incident that occurred on Sunday 10/01/2023 in which one of the dogs charged after my cat and killed it. This dog has had multiple complaints and several incidents in the past, which we and our neighbors have documented. Please see the attached letter, signed by ourselves and multiple neighbors, for details.

Thank You,

Richard Joltes

attachments

Animal Control Officer
City of Amesbury
c/o Amesbury Police Department
19 School St, Amesbury, MA 01913

Subject: Petition regarding dangerous dogs located at 141 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Date: 4 October 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned residents of the neighborhood, wish to express our concern regarding the presence and behavior of two large dogs owned by Fouad ("Fred") and Maura Tarazi, who reside at 141 Kimball Rd Amesbury MA. It has become obvious as the result of an incident that occurred on 1 October 2023 involving one of these dogs and a cat (now deceased) owned by Richard and Kristin Joltes of 147 Kimball Rd, that these dogs are exhibiting a years-long pattern of dangerous behavior against both other animals and, more concerningly, humans. It is also obvious that the owners exhibit a careless disregard for their behavior or are simply incapable of discerning it due to loyalty to the animals in question.

The first known incident occurred in August 2017 when a cat owned by Mr. & Ms. Joltes roamed into the Tarazis fenced back yard and was attacked by both dogs simultaneously. While the cat should not have entered the yard, that it was attacked so viciously and would have been killed had not one of the dogs' owners been present to pull them off in time is indicative of the dogs' high levels of aggression. As it was, the cat suffered scratches and bites and was forcibly knocked to the ground, resulting in torn ligaments in one leg. Veterinary bills for this incident reached nearly \$14,000 and the animal was left with a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), cerebral damage, and a permanent limp.

The second known incident occurred in January 2017 and involved Meghan O'Neill of 139 Kimball Rd. She states that she was in her yard during winter when the dogs owned by Mr. & Ms. Tarazi appeared and started menacing her while circling and attempting to attack. They bit her several times and were only unable to break the skin due to the multiple layers of clothing she wore. After ten minutes her husband appeared and chased the dogs off. The dogs' owners were notified of the incident and apologized but did nothing to change their behavior or, apparently, the condition of the fenced back yard. Ms. O'Neill has retained digital photos of bruising and scraping caused by the dogs' attempted attacks.

A third incident occurred in 2021, when the dogs again escaped from their family's back yard and immediately attacked a Labrador called Cora, owned by John and Michelle Regan of 145 Kimball Rd. Only timely intervention by Cora's owners and others prevented injury. Mr. Tarazi apologized and returned the dogs to their enclosure.

The fourth incident, which incited creation of this letter, occurred on 1 October 2023 when one of the dogs again broke out of the fenced back yard and attacked a cat called Pixel, owned by Mr. & Ms. Joltes, in the wooded area behind 143 Kimball Rd. Another neighbor, Terence Regan of 143 Kimball Rd, was home and witnessed the attack from a distance. Mr. Tarazi returned the dog to its yard, then picked up the dead cat and took it to his home while telling Mr. Regan he would contact Mr. & Ms. Joltes as he knew they owned cats. He failed to do so, and it was only discovered that the cat was dead when Mr.

Joltes approached the Tarazi residence and was informed of the cat's demise by Maura. She claimed her husband had called APD and was told to contact the ACO during normal business hours. Mr. Joltes identified the cat and took it home.

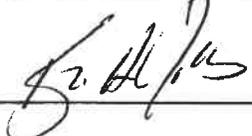
Conversations among the parties noted above following this most recent incident have made it clear that the pattern of violent, aggressive behavior exhibited by the dogs has continued for years, with no apparent impact on how the animals have been trained or managed. Only now that information has been shared among families has it been made clear that what were perceived as single incidents are actually a disturbing pattern of vicious behavior.

The dogs have the ability to break out of the fenced yard at random intervals; the most recent incident apparently involved the dog actually jumping over a 6 ½' fence to pursue and kill the cat Pixel. That both dogs' immediate response to freedom from their enclosure is to attack the nearest animal or person represents a serious hazard to the entire neighborhood. Even more concerning is the fact that dangerous dogs sometimes evolve from attacking other animals to attacking children. The attack on Ms. O'Neil indicates they are not averse to attacking people, and there are many small children in the neighborhood who play regularly in their yards. It should not be necessary for parents to fear the sudden appearance of violent animals who are likely to injure or maim their children, and this most recent incident has caused significant alarm among those families.

We are asking that this matter be treated expeditiously by the Amesbury ACO and APD, that the Tarazi family be compelled to further reinforce their enclosure materials to prevent further incidents, and that the two animals in question be declared as vicious dogs with the signage and liability insurance requirements as outlined in Amesbury City Code §204-20.

Many thanks for your consideration and prompt response to this unfortunate situation.

Richard Joltes  147 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Kristin Joltes  147 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

John Regan  145 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Michelle Regan  145 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Terence Regan  143 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

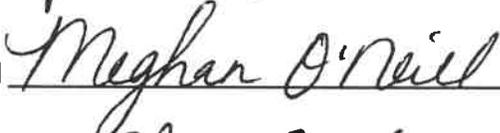
Joan Regan  143 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Matthew O'Neill



139 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Meghan O'Neill



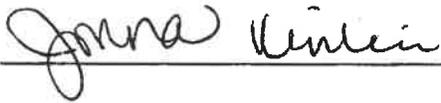
139 Kimball Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Christopher Kinlin



47 Newton Rd, Amesbury MA 01913

Jonna Kinlin



47 Newton Rd, Amesbury MA 01913