RESOLUTION NO. R2024- 97

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, SUBMITTING TO A VOTE OF REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY AT THE SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 5, 2024, A BALLOT QUESTION PERTAINING TO THE OWNERSHIP OF PIT BULLS WITHIN THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO

WHEREAS, in 2005, the City Council (the “Council”) of the City of Aurora, Colorado, (the “City”) adopted Ordinance No. 2005-84 enacting Section 14-75 of the City Code, which section made it unlawful for any person to have, own, possess, keep, exercise control over, maintain, harbor, transport, or sell within the City any pit bull (American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire Bull Terrier) and other restricted breed dogs (the “2005 Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Council adopted Ordinance 2011-11 reducing the number of restricted breed dogs from ten breeds to three breeds in Section 14-75 of the City Code. The three breeds prohibited by Section 14-75 of the City Code include the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier (the “2011 Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, the City adopted revisions to the Aurora City Code Chapter 14 on November 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the revisions to Chapter 14 address aggressive, dangerous, and potentially dangerous animals; and

WHEREAS, the aggressive, dangerous, and potentially dangerous dog provisions render breed restrictions unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the public interest in the issue of whether the three restricted breed dogs (American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier) should be kept within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds and determines that it is appropriate to exercise its authority under Article 6-4 of the City Charter and Section 54-131(a) of the City Code to refer the 2024 Ordinance (the “2024 Ordinance”) to a vote of the registered electors of the City at the November 5, 2024 special municipal election; and

WHEREAS, Council approved a similar Resolution No. 2024-086 on July 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, following approval of Resolution No. 2024-086, councilmembers were contacted by community stakeholders with some concerns about the language of the ballot language that would be submitted to the registered electors of the City; and
WHEREAS, Council has worked with stakeholders to ensure the ballot language submitted to the registered electors of the City is in the best form as possible, which resulted in this Resolution coming forward to repeal and replace Resolution No. 2024-086, updating the ballot language.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO THAT:

Section 1. Resolution No. 2024-086 is hereby REPEALED.

Section 2. There is hereby submitted to a vote of the registered electors of the City at the special municipal election to be held on November 5, 2024, the question of enacting an ordinance authorizing the ownership of American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and Staffordshire Bull Terrier dogs within the City.

Section 3. The form of the ordinance is attached to this resolution as Appendix A.

Section 4. The following question shall be submitted to a vote of the registered electors of the City at the special municipal election to be held November 5, 2024:

OWNERSHIP OF PIT BULLS

SHALL THE PEOPLE OF AURORA, COLORADO AGREE THAT THE RESTRICTED BREED BAN IN THE CITY OF AURORA CODE BE REPEALED THEREBY ALLOWING AURORA CITIZENS TO OWN AMERICAN PIT BULL TERRIER, AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER, AND STAFFORDSHIRE BULL TERRIER DOGS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF AURORA, COLORADO WITH THE OWNERS BEING SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY CODE, INCLUDING SECTION 14-7 CONCERNING KEEPING AGGRESSIVE, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS, OR DANGEROUS ANIMALS, THAT APPLIES TO ALL DOGS?

YES _______ NO _______

Section 5. All resolutions or parts of resolutions of the City in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

RESOLVED AND PASSED this 22nd day of July, 2024.

MIKE COFFMAN, Mayor
ATTEST:

Kadee M. Rodriguez, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Peter A. Schulte, Manager, Public Safety Client Group