



## STAFF REPORT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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To: Mayor Gavin Buckley

From: David Jarrell, City Manager

Date: November 19, 2020

Subject: O-48-20: Animal Control – Canine Leash Laws

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This ordinance modifies the City Code to require that dogs be on leashes in public recreation areas or at large, and authorizes enforcement by the Police Department. Currently, animal control regulations are administered and enforced in the City in the same manner as they are in the County, by the Anne Arundel County Animal Care & Control Department.

This ordinance would change the current animal control protocol as it pertains to dogs being at large or off leash in public recreation areas. Currently, the Police Department does not have animal control enforcement responsibilities. This ordinance would add enforcement of dogs being on leash to the responsibilities of the Police Department. In the County, these duties are performed by Animal Control Officers.

The Police Department is fully tasked with their many current responsibilities. Although the County's Animal Control Officers may not have the 24 hours per day, seven days per week availability that the Police Department has, I would caution against adding these duties and responsibilities for very limited animal control issues, to the Police Department. Instead, the County's Animal Care & Control Department should continue with enforcement of this and all other animal control issues.

*Prepared by David Jarrell, City Manager*