



REQUEST FOR ACTION

Ordinance Amendment to Section 3-1-17 of Chapter 3-1 - Dangerous Dogs

MEETING DATE:

May 4, 2026

ORIGINATING DEPT:

City Attorney's Office

AGENDA SECTION:

Ordinance First Readings

PRESENTER:

City Attorney Michael
Spindler-Krage

Action Requested:

Receiving and filing the first reading of an Ordinance amending Section 3-1-17 of Chapter 3-1 relating to Dangerous Dog.

Report Narrative:

Rochester Code of Ordinances 3-1-17(b) enumerates the requirements with which dog owners shall comply when their dog has been declared potentially dangerous. When a dog is declared potentially dangerous, the dog owner has the right to have a hearing in front of a hearing officer. The hearing officer determines whether the declaration is upheld. However, there are times dog owners choose not to request a hearing and accept the potentially dangerous dog designation. One requirement imposed under the ordinance is a surety bond or policy of liability insurance in the amount of \$25,000.00 when the hearing officer determines that the dog is potentially dangerous as a result of biting a human. As written, the insurance requirement applies only when a hearing officer upholds a potentially dangerous dog designation and not when a dog owner forgoes a hearing and accepts the designation. The proposal amends the language of the ordinance to apply the insurance requirement whenever a dog is declared potentially dangerous as a result of biting a human.

Priorities & Foundational Principles:

Public Safety

Prior Legislative Actions & Community Engagement:

April 6, 2026: Council approval during consent agenda.

Fiscal & Resource Impact:

None.

Alternative Action(s):

No alternative actions are recommended at this time.

Prepared By:

Jody Houghton

Attachments:

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