

**ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD  
FOR CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND  
MINUTES OF MEETING - CASES  
Tuesday, September 16, 2014**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Control Board for Charles County, Maryland, was convened by the Chairman at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, Charles County Government Building, with the following Board members in attendance.

Andrew Parker, Chairman  
Amanda Foreman – Vice Chairman  
Sean Brown, Sheriff’s Office  
Kristin Lake  
Amanda Hill Gibson  
William Van Blarcum  
Adam Storch, Associate County Attorney  
Melody Miles Haynes, Associate County Attorney  
Edward Tucker, Chief  
Maria Team, Clerk

A quorum was declared based upon the presence of a majority of the appointed Board Members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Animal Matters Hearing Board for August 19, 2014, were approved and adopted.

**Citation No. 6402** – issued to Elsa B. Ault, 4465 Richard Lawrence Drive, Marbury, Maryland 20658 for the alleged violation of Section 230.12 and Section 230.12.5 for her dog “Meo”. Ms. Ault was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Officer Jeff Thomas who informed the Board that Ms. Ault relinquished ownership of her dog to the County. Entered into evidence was a call sheet marked AC Ex. 1.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Vice-Chairman made a motion to deem Ms. Ault’s dog dangerous and vicious. A second was made and this vote passed unanimously. No fines were imposed.

**Citation No. 6342 and 6343** – issued Felipe J. Aguilar, 3365 Elsa Avenue, Waldorf, Maryland 20603 for the alleged violation of Section 230.12 and Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Mr. Aguilar was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Officer Gustafson and Mr. Aguilar. Testimony was also heard from Darrick Copeland, and Deputy David Proctor, witnesses for AC. Mr. Aguilar requested a hearing. Entered into evidence were five photos marked AC Ex. 1, a vet report, marked AC Ex. 2 and four photos marked AC Ex. 3.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Vice Chairman made a motion to find Mr. Aguilar in violation of Section 230.12 and Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations and fine him a total of \$500.00 and suspend \$300.00 from that amount. The Board allowed Mr. Aguilar until the close of business on October 7, 2014 to satisfy the balance of \$200.00.

**Citation Nos. 6374 and 6375** – issued to Shannon L. O’Leary, 25 Fairmont Place, Indian Head, Maryland 20640 both for the alleged violation of Section 230.12.A of the Charles County Animal Regulations for both citations. Ms. O’Leary was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Ms. O’Leary admitted to being in violation of Section 230.12 for both citations. Testimony was heard from Officer Kevin Earle and Ms. O’Leary.

Based on the admission, the Chairman found Ms. O’Leary in violation for her two dogs “Fat Mama” and “Pearl” and fine her a total of \$100.00 for both and suspend \$70.00 from that amount on the condition that she keep her dogs from running at large. A second was made by Sean Brown and the vote passed unanimously.

**Citation No. 6401** – issued to Michael Johnson, Jr., 4512 Orleans Lane, Waldorf, MD 20601 for the alleged violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Mr. Johnson was present, and not represented by counsel. Testimony was heard from Officer Earle, Stephen Floyd and Mr. Johnson.

Based on the testimony heard, the Vice Chairman made a motion to find Mr. Johnson in violation of Section 230.12.5.E 1, 3 and 5 (a) and (b) for his dog “Tru” A second was made by Sean Brown and the vote passed unanimously. No fine was imposed.

**Citation No. 6380** – issued to Jessica Hutchinson, 500 Gerry Court, Waldorf, MD 20602 for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A, Section 230.8, Section 230.9.A and Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Brenda Womack was present at the hearing, and took ownership of the dog “Moses”, who is now deceased. Ms. Womack denied being in violation of the above charges. Testimony was heard from Officer Earle and Ms. Womack. Testimony was also heard from Melissa Fuller, witness for AC. Entered into evidence were two photos marked AC Ex. 1.

Based on the testimony heard, the Vice Chairman made a motion to find Ms. Womack in violation of Section 230.10.A, Section 230.9.A, Section 230.9.B and Section 230.8 of the Charles County Animal Regulations and not in violation of Section 230.12.5 for her dog “Moses”, and fine her a total of \$850.00 and suspend \$600.00 from that amount, leaving a balance of \$250.00 due by October 7, 2014. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously.

**Citation No. 6376** – issued to Michael R. Brindza, 1025 Dartmouth Road, Waldorf, MD 20602 for alleged violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations, for his dog “Lola”. Mr. Brindza was present at the hearing, and was represented by counsel, E. Anne Benoroya. Mr. Brindza, through his attorney denied being in violation of Section 230.12 of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Testimony was heard from Officer Kevin Earle, Mr. Brindza and expert witness Mrs. Bulanda.

Based on the testimony heard, the Vice-Chairman made a motion to find Mr. Brindza in violation of Section 230.12.5 for his dog “Lola” and deem her dangerous and vicious and suspend any fines at this time. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously.

**Citation no. 6379** – issued to Derek A. Schierlamann, 5741 Chapman Landing Road, Indian Head, MD 20640 for the alleged violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dog “Boomer”. Mr. Schierlmann was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Mr. Schierlmann denied being in violation. A motion was made to amend the name on the citation from Schier to Schierlmann. A second was made and the motion passed unanimously. Testimony was heard from Officer Kevin Earle and Mr. Schierlmann. Testimony was also heard from Dr. Laura Smith and Margaret Asman (witnesses for Mr. Schierlmann).

Based on the testimony heard, the Vice-Chairman made a motion to find Mr. Schierlmann in violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his dog “Boomer” and deem her dangerous and vicious. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously.

**Citation No. 6377** – issued to Christina J. Otero, 6400 Springbrook Lane, Clinton, MD 20735 for the alleged violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog “Lydia”. Ms. Otero was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Ms. Otero denied being in violation. Testimony was heard from Officer Kevin Earle and Ms. Otero.

Based on the testimony heard, the Vice-Chairman made a motion to find Ms. Otero in violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog “Lydia” and deem her dangerous and vicious. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously.

**Citation No. 6392** – issued to Andrew B. Low, 10533 Theodore Green Boulevard, White Plains, Maryland 20695 for the alleged violation of Section 230.8 of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Mr. Low was present with counsel, Jonathan Haskel, Esq. A hearing was waived/postponed for 18 months, and a consent order was presented and accepted by the Board with two additional provision which are: Mr. Low must present quarterly status reports, and random inspections are to be done by Animal Control Services

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the hearing at 10:40 p.m.