

# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

## ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 585-2013

Meeting Date: October 22, 2013

**From: MAYOR**

**Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS  
17.30.070 AND 17.30.080 TO PROVIDE EXEMPTION FROM  
QUARANTINE FOR POLICE DOGS.**

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Anchorage Police Department are requesting the Municipal Assembly amend Anchorage Municipal Code sections 17.30.070 and 17.30.080 to exempt police dogs owned by the Anchorage Police Department from quarantine. The current code provides quarantine exemption for police dogs when they bite in the line of duty. Since "in the line of duty" is not defined, a code amendment is needed for clarification.

Animals under quarantine are required to be confined and are prohibited from coming into contact with animals or people other than their owner. Further, quarantined animals are only allowed outdoors when under control by leash and muzzled during the quarantine period. Such requirements would prohibit Anchorage police dogs from performing their valuable role.

Anchorage police dogs are kept current on rabies vaccinations, are rarely separated from their handlers and seldom leave the Municipality. Thus, they do not pose a risk for rabies transmission. When a bite occurs, the police dog is observed for 14 days and the Anchorage Police Department conducts an internal investigation to ensure the dog remains fit for police work. The Animal Control Advisory Board agrees with this clarification.

### **THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.**

Prepared by: DeeAnn Fetko, Grants and Contracts Supervisor,  
Department of Health and Human Services

Approved by: Janet S. Vietmeier, Director, Department of Health  
and Human Services

Concur: Dennis A. Wheeler, Municipal Attorney

Concur: George J. Vakalis, Municipal Manager

Respectfully submitted: Daniel A. Sullivan, Mayor