
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2026 10:38 AM
To: JT Scott [REDACTED]; Animal Control [REDACTED] Wilfred Mbah [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Mayor's Office [REDACTED]; Jon Link <[REDACTED]>;
[REDACTED]; Ben Wheeler [REDACTED]; Public Comments [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Off leash dogs in our city

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Dear Mayor Wilson and Councilors,

After my last email in May, my concern was added to discussion at the May 28 City Council meeting where it was not addressed but moved to the Health and Safety committee. At the July 1 Health and Safety committee meeting my concern was not addressed but "kept in committee". We are now going on two months since my initial inquiry with no answers or resolution to this issue. I continue to see off leash dogs in Lincoln Park and in my neighborhood and see no enforcement or anything to educate dog owners or discourage this dangerous behavior.

In fact, just yesterday a thread was posted on the Somerville sub-reddit about 75lb off-leash dogs fighting in the park. I have linked the thread and attached the original post. Is this a safe environment for families and individuals? Is the expectation that if I want to use the park I may have to encounter aggressive off-leash dogs?

https://old.reddit.com/r/Somerville/comments/1uqeg9q/help_me_get_in_contact_with_a_dog_owner_from_an/

Ten years ago the city spent over \$8 million to redevelop Lincoln Park and add a dedicated dog run area. If the city will not enforce the state mandated leash laws in this park, I will request that we remove the dog run and allow that area for full public use.

I requested a record of off-leash dog reports and bites in the city from the records office, which I have received today. This is a multi-year record of continued and willful negligence by the city to address this public safety issue.

I look forward to your response about next steps and how the city will be addressing this problem.

Best,

Chris

Subject: Re: Off leash dogs in our city

Dear Mayor Wilson and Councilors,

I am writing to formally report an ongoing public safety hazard at Lincoln Park and within the Ward 2 neighborhood. Tonight, I witnessed an off-leash dog attack a leashed dog in the park. I have attached a photo of the dog and dog owner from after the incident.

This is not an isolated incident; it is part of a systemic failure of animal control and code enforcement in our community. Both my wife and I have previously been bitten by dogs in our neighborhood. Despite reporting these issues, the city has taken no meaningful action.

Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. Chapter 140, Section 173) explicitly allow municipalities to enforce tethering and leash bylaws. By failing to enforce our city's ordinances, the city is creating an environment where responsible residents and their pets are actively unsafe.

To resolve this issue productively, I am asking the city to immediately implement the following measures at Lincoln Park:

- **Targeted Enforcement:** Increased, active patrols by Animal Control and local law enforcement, with strict ticketing for off-leash violations.
- **Clear Signage & Education:** Installation of prominent, high-visibility signs clarifying leash laws, fines, and reporting procedures, paired with a city-wide public awareness campaign on responsible pet ownership.

I love Somerville and our community, but I cannot accept a status quo where a walk in a public park requires risking my physical safety. As you can see below, I sent a similar email last summer - with no response from the city or any of the copied individuals. If the city is unable or unwilling to address this negligence and enforce its own safety bylaws, my next step will be to formally escalate this matter. This will include contacting the city's municipal insurer, as well as the insurers of local developers operating in the area, to formally advise them that the city is maintaining a known, unmitigated public liability.

I look forward to your prompt response detailing the specific steps the city will take to secure the park and our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Chris Rosol

Marion Street, Somerville

On Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 9:23 AM Christopher Rosol [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning,

On Monday evening my wife and I took a stroll from our home in the Lincoln Park neighborhood up to the monument on prospect hill. It is so great to see the activity in Lincoln Park. It has become such a vibrant space since it was renovated a number of years ago. Unfortunately, we were disturbed to see a situation that is all too common in the park - 3 off leash dogs running around the fields and the path.

It was a beautiful evening up on prospect hill. We enjoy the views of the city and it feels like an urban oasis. Unfortunately, once again, we were disturbed to see 2 off leash dogs running about in the park adjacent to the monument.

Somerville and Massachusetts have a leash laws. These are not being enforced within the city of

Somerville. We have also paid property tax dollars to design and create specific locations, "dog parks," for dogs to be off leash. These are used by some, but there are neighbors and residents who feel the laws and spaces do not apply to them, and they continue to allow their dogs off leash in our parks and on the streets of our neighborhoods.

Due to the lawless activities of my neighbors, and the negligent enforcement by the city of Somerville, I am not given the same free and safe access to these public benefits that are paid for with my property tax dollars as these dogs and dog owners. Does this seem reasonable to you? As we head into another local election season, I would like to know how you plan to make our public space available, safe and accessible to all of the residents of the city, and not just the few who happen to have dogs.

Thank you,

Chris Rosol
Marion Street, Somerville

City of Somerville Public Records Notice

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r/Somerville
u/ProjectGO • 1h

Help me get in contact with a dog owner from an incident in Lincoln Park today (7/7)

I'm trying locate the owner of a dog who nipped my dog's ear today (7/7/26) in Lincoln Park in Somerville at ~12:15 pm. I'm not upset, but I need your dog's rabies info so mine doesn't have to quarantine.

The owner is a 30's(?) man, who was walking two dogs. One was a tall (80+ lbs) hound-ish mix with a mottled brown-black coat of short fur. The dog had an older face with some salt and pepper on the muzzle, and was on a brown leash with a yellow tag that said "please don't pet me, I'm anxious". The other dog was a 50ish lb off-white golden retriever.

My dog is a 75-lb boxer mix who looks like Scooby Doo. At the time of the incident, he was playing off-leash with the golden retriever and a smaller merle dog. The three of them bowled into the anxious hound, who nipped my dog on the left side of his face. There was no additional contact and we didn't see any blood at the time, so we went to a separate area of the park. Later in the walk I discovered a small amount of blood on his ear, and this afternoon I found two small cuts from the bite.

If you are the owner or know someone with these dogs, PLEASE message me ASAP. I think your dog's reaction was justified in the situation, but I need to know if he is current on his rabies vaccination. If I can't get that confirmation, mine will be required to quarantine for the next 45 days.



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