

RE: Elliot's House "Do Not Recommend" status

Rachel Taylor <rtaylor@police.somerville.ma.us>

Thu 3/3/2022 2:58 PM

To: Andrea Torres <adacosta@somervillema.gov>; Haley LaMonica <hlaonica@police.somerville.ma.us>

 1 attachments (49 KB)

Incident Report - 230 Somerville Ave-Elliot's House.doc;

Hi Andrea,

Myself and ACO LaMonica do not recommend the increased capacity for dog daycare and overnight boarding at Elliot's House. Attached is our incident report regarding complaints and violations within the past month. The facility is not large enough to house more than 60 dogs at a time. There is not enough space for the dogs to have adequate exercise during the day. The facility size and ratio of dogs to staff (which we witnessed to be about 40:1 on average per pen) is unsafe for both the dogs and employees. In regards to overnight boarding, the facility is not able to provide adequate care for the amount requested. Each dog is required to have adequate exercise space with access to food and water for overnight boarding and they do not have this. This capacity increase and overnight boarding would make an incredibly stressful and unsafe environment for both the dogs and employees at Elliot's House. Under these conditions, both myself and ACO LaMonica will not be approving a capacity increase for dog daycare or overnight boarding.

Thank you,

Rachel Taylor

From: Andrea Torres <adacosta@somervillema.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 10:03 AM
To: Rachel Taylor <rtaylor@police.somerville.ma.us>
Subject: Re: Elliot's House "Do Not Recommend" status

I have the incident report for what you sent me earlier. No worries, I can wait until 2pm.

Thanks,

Andrea R. Torres
Principal Clerk-Licensing
93 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143
atorres@somervillema.gov
617-625-6600 x4107

From: Rachel Taylor <rtaylor@police.somerville.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:56 AM
To: Andrea Torres <adacosta@somervillema.gov>
Subject: Re: Elliot's House "Do Not Recommend" status

Yes! The email will be coming from myself and Haley. She comes in at 2 so I will send it over sometime after. Do you need me to resend the incident report? That is also from both of us.

Thank you!
Rachel

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From: Andrea Torres <adacosta@somervillema.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 9:53:39 AM
To: Rachel Taylor <rtaylor@police.somerville.ma.us>
Subject: Elliot's House "Do Not Recommend" status

Good morning Rachel,

When you have the chance, could you send me the email with your position on the increase of capacity and overnight boarding for Elliot's house.

Truly,

Andrea R. Torres
Principal Clerk-Licensing
93 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143
atorres@somervillema.gov
617-625-6600 x4107

City of Somerville Public Records Notice

Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

**SOMERVILLE ANIMAL CONTROL
INCIDENT REPORT**

Date of Incident: 02/10/22	Time of Incident: 11:24AM	Time Reported: 11:24AM
Date Reported: 02/10/22	Incident Classification: Animal Cruelty/Neglect/Violations	Report Received Via: E-Mail
Location of Incident: 230 Somerville Ave-Elliot's House(Dog Daycare)	Responding Officer(s): E2, ISD, ACO Taylor, ACO LaMonica	
Owner Name: Carol Lindenmuth	Kennel Address: 230 Somerville Ave	
Owner Telephone: 323-309-5535	Owner Mailing Address (if different): 485 Massachusetts Ave Suite 300 PMB 11 Cambridge, MA 02139	
Species of Animal: Canine	Breed: Multiple	Visual Identification (collar/tags): Collar/tags
Gender: Male/Female	DOB/Age: Multiple	Spayed / Neutered: Yes
Animal's Name:	Size/Weight:	Microchip# (if applicable):
Veterinarian:	Rabies Vac Expiration Date:	
Disposition of Animal:		
Investigating ACO: Rachel Taylor/Haley LaMonica		SAC Report Prepared By: Rachel Taylor/Haley LaMonica

Narrative:

On 02/10/22 at approx 11:30am Somerville Animal Control received an e-mail from a citizen stating her friend witnessed disturbing cruelty/neglect at a dog daycare facility in Somerville known as Elliot's House. Her friend posted on social media a video of overcrowding, no heat in the facility, unsanitary conditions, and a dog covered in urine/feces. I would like to note we were notified by past employees this employer has the employees sign an NDA and scares these individuals into not being able to notify law enforcement regarding the care and custody of these canines.

I contacted Somerville's Principal Clerk-Licensing, Andrea Torres, to receive a copy of their current kennel license. Their current license states they are allowed to have a maximum of 20 dogs and no overnight boarding. ISD was also contacted due to possible building/occupancy violations.

At approx. 2pm myself, ACO LaMonica, E2 (Ofc Reece), and Joe Salamone (Building Inspector) responded to Elliot's House. As we approached the front door there was a very strong odor of urine/feces. We were greeted by the manager, Miguel. He was advised as to why we were there and was asked to contact the owner as we needed to do a walk-through of the facility. Miguel called the owner, Carol, and Carol spoke with Mr. Salamone regarding the allegations and was told Miguel would give us a walk through.

As we walked through the door to the back where the canines are kept there was a small enclosure with approx. 35 canines (both small and large) and one worker inside. We walked around and came to a small grooming/bath area where there was a noticeable large puddle of water on the ground. There were 8 small cages with frightened canines shaking and no access to water. A few feet away was a bit larger pen with approx. 40 large canines and one worker inside. On the outside wall of the pen were more small cages and frightened canines also with no access to water. Miguel stated these dogs are relaxing for the rest of the day as they were playing for a bit in the morning.

The environment is causing unnecessary stress and hazardous conditions to the canines due to the amount of space and the amount of canines. Also the ratio of canines to employees (40:1) is a huge safety concern for not only the canines but employees too.

We asked Miguel how many canines are on the premises right now and he stated 77. We advised him the maximum allowed are 20 and the company is in violation. They were also in violation due to not posting the license in a conspicuous place. Mr. Salamone contacted the owner Carol and gave her a warning she was in violation of the kennel license.

On 02/15/22 at approx. 2:20PM I received a voicemail on the Animal Control office phone from a father of a current employee at Elliot's House stating his daughter is very concerned for the dog's and employee's safety. I returned the father's phone call and he stated his daughter had told him today they had 80 dogs on premises. The father would like to remain anonymous to prevent retaliation on his daughter but I do have his information.

On 02/16/22 at approx. 2:30PM myself, ACO LaMonica, and E2 responded to Elliot's House. We were greeted by the manager, Miguel. We told him we were checking on the past violations and we received another complaint from a different individual. We asked him how many dogs were on the premises. He went into his roster and stated there were 73 dogs. He also stated they did not stop boarding. The owner, Carol, had instructed the employees to continue what they have been doing. We explained to Miguel due to the violation today the owner is receiving a \$500 citation (ticket #: 47780). We further explained that boarding has to be stopped immediately and there can't be over 60 dogs at one time (on 02/14/22 the city clerk approved the 60 for the remainder of the year). We also advised him the license needed to be posted in place that will be seen by the public and that is also a violation.

On 2/24/22 at approx. 12PM myself, ACO LaMonica, and E2 (Ofc. M Canty) responded to Elliot's House. We were greeted by the manager, Miguel. We told him that we were here again to check on the previous violations. We asked how many dogs were on the premises and he stated there were 71 dogs which is in violation of their kennel license. Miguel stated they have not stopped overnight boarding. I would also like to note the kennel license was still not posted. The owner, Carol was issued a \$1,000.00 citation (ticket #47782). While we were there for approximately five minutes we heard two dog fights break out. I would like to reiterate this environment is unsafe and inhumane due to the overcrowding of excess dogs.

I am requesting the City Clerk to suspend or revoke Elliot's House kennel license due to non-compliance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Taylor
Haley LaMonica
City of Somerville
Somerville Police Department
Animal Control Officer
Animal Inspector