

Madalyn Letellier

From: Christopher Rosol [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 9:10 PM
To: JT Scott; Animal Control; Wilfred Mbah; Mayor's Office; Jon Link; [REDACTED]; Ben Wheeler; Public Comments
Subject: Re: Off leash dogs in our city
Attachments: PXL_20260519_000049298.jpg

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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

[REDACTED], 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

[REDACTED], Somerville

