

Meeting Agendas/Info

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

01-360

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

AGENDA:

JULY 9, 2001

SUBJECT:

MODIFICATION OF
ORDINANCE
SECTION 18-202-
DANGEROUS
ANIMALS

SYNOPSIS -

The Police Department is requesting a modification to Section 18-202 of the Municipal Code, which addresses the seizure, impoundment, and disposition of dangerous animals. In extreme cases of animal aggression that result in severe injury, this modification will allow the Chief Humane Officer to recommend that the animal be destroyed instead of allowing the pet owner the option of removing the animal from the City of Des Moines to another community. The City Hearing Officer may then act on the Chief Humane Officers' recommendation.

The Legal and Police Departments have met and agreed on the proposed modification to the ordinance.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

FISCAL IMPACT -

None.

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM
MOULDER
CHIEF OF POLICE

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

Last spring, a child was attacked and mauled by an aggressive dog while it was running at large. The child was hospitalized for five days and needed over 200 stitches to his leg to close the injuries caused by the dog. The dog was declared dangerous, and officials within the Police Department felt that this animal should have been destroyed because of the severe injuries it caused to the child. Unfortunately, the Municipal Code did not allow that option, and the animal was relocated to another community.

Modifying the Code to require destruction of an animal in cases

where the animal has inflicted severe injuries is prudent and will prevent citizens in other communities from having to be put at risk of injury.
