

Fulton County
SPECIAL CALL: Animal Welfare Board Meeting
Dangerous Dog Hearing Minutes

Meeting Date and Time

Date of Meeting: July 25, 2025
Time of Meeting: 3:00 PM

Meeting Location

Location of Meeting: Fulton County Government Building
141 Pryor St SW; Suite#: 3700
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Meeting Attendees

Present at Meeting: Yoshina Colbert-Bradford, Brad Bowman, Li Sapp, Iza Webster, Katie Factor, Karen Levy, Vivien Dumford, Marley Wiggin, Joseph Barasoain, Trevin Law, Vernon Sawyer, Rebecca Guinn, Audrey Shoemaker, Officer Ellen Jones, Officer Nicholas Johnson, Ozman Ruzayev

The Special Call meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of Fulton County was called to order at 3:12 PM on July 25, 2025, at Fulton County Government Building by Iza Webster.

I. Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearing

1. **Call To Order:** Iza Webster, Board Chair

Attendance of Board Members Present: Yoshina Colbert- Bradford, Katie Factor, Karen Levy, Iza Webster, Vivien Dumford, Marley Wiggin. Quorum Identified.

2. **Introduction of Parties:** Joseph Barasoain, Director/Chief of Emergency Management

Lifeline Animal Project represented by Chris Emerson, Director of Field Services. Brad Bowman and Li Sapp present from Fulton County Attorney's Office. Dangerous Dog Appellant not present at time.

3. **Procedural Outline:** Joseph Barasoain, Director/Chief of Emergency Management, Li Sapp and Brad Bowman, Both General Counsel of Fulton County, and Iza Webster, Board Chair.

Appellant was not present during this time. Li Sapp provided a suggestion to the Board Members to provide a 15-minute countdown to allow the appellant to arrive. While awaiting the 15-minute Count down Board Members proceeded to agenda item #8 titled "Discussion of Scheduling Quarterly Meeting Current Through 2026." After completing the 15 countdown, Marley Wiggin, Board Member made a Motion to Dismiss the Appeal. Yoshina Colbert- Bradford Seconded the Motion. A unanimous vote of the board was received. Moments after, the Appellant arrived late and a Motion to Reopen the Hearing was made by Karen Levy and Seconded by Katie Factor. Passed by a Majority Vote.

4. **Reading of Notice of Dangerous Dog Classification by Fulton County Animal Services:** Chris Emerson, Director of Field Services for Lifeline Animal Project

Chris Emerson read the 2-page document provided to the appellant dated April 29, 2025 stating "King" was deemed a dangerous dog based from 5 incidents dating from 1/26/22-9/20/24.

5. **Presentation of Evidence- Ozman Ruzayev Appellant**

Appellant provided a statement stating that he does not believe his dog "King" is a danger to the community. He believes that's all bites were minor minus the incident dated 9/20/2024 but all were provoked.

6. **Presentation of Evidence:** Chris Emerson, Director of Field Services for Lifeline Animal Project

Chris Emerson presented the Board Members with a Large Photo of the Bite Victim's face from 09/20/2024 incident. Chris Emerson also provided the definition of what provocation was according to the Cambridge Dictionary. Chris Emerson also had 2 witnesses from Johns Creek Police Department. Both Officer N. Johnson and Officer E. Jones both answered several questions that Director Emerson asked and provided a summary of what occurred during their police investigation.

7. **Discussion and Decision:** Board Members and General Counsel

Board Members asked several questions to the Appellant in reference to what actions has the owner taken since the incidents, and what form of training has the animal had. Board Member Marley Wiggin provided an overview of what the law requires a Dangerous Dog owner to come complete to become into Compliance and General Counsel provided the State Statute OGCA that the Fulton County Ordinance mirrors. Marley Wiggin made a Motion to Uphold the Dangerous Dog Determination provided by Fulton County Animal Services dated April 29, 2025. This motion was seconded by 4 Total Votes. Appellant was notified in person that the Declaration will be upheld, and he will receive notification via mail and email within 10 days of today's hearing of instructions to come into compliance.

8. **Discussion of Scheduling Quarterly Meeting Current Through 2026:** Board Members

Board Members confirmed the Next Meeting for August 11th from 6p-7:30p and November 10th =from 6p-7:30pm. Motion was made by Yoshina Colbert-Bradley and Seconded by Katie Factor. There was a question posed by Yoshina Colbert-Bradley and other board members questioned since the Board wants to become more proactive, could they meet virtually. The Board was reminded due to the Open Meeting Act, the board has to meet in person and cannot meet virtually unless the board has a quorum in person. Yoshina asked for a copy of the Open's Meeting act and they board will further discuss the 2026 meeting agenda next meeting.

9. **Meeting Adjourned:** Board Members

Motion made by Marley Wiggin and Seconded by Katie Factor to Adjourn the Meeting.

II. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:00PM on August 11, 2025, from 6:00pm-7:30pm at:

**Fulton County Government Building
141 Pryor St SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

The agenda for the next meeting is as follows: TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40PM by Iza Webster

Minutes submitted by: Trevin Law

Minutes approved by: Frances Iza Webster