

From: Ricky Deitner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2020 4:43 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: letters_from_customers.pdf



Submitted on Sunday, February 23, 2020 - 16:42

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, February 23, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Ricky
Last Name Deitner
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] Windsor St
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code S7k [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Alpha Adventures
Subject Animal control bylaws
Meeting (if known) Feb 24
Comments
February 23, 2020

Dear City Council,

I would like to speak at the February 24, 2020 City Council Meeting on agenda item 8.1.2 – Proposed amendments to Bylaw 7860 & 8176.

I am opposed to the proposed 4 dog per person rule in off leash dog parks. I am a full-time professional dog walker and trainer and have a business licence. I have been making a living at it for five years. I have been to workshops by Brad Patterson (End of My Leash) and Turid Rugass (animal behaviouralist). I do not take just any dog on a group walk. I take prospective clients out and ensure they are suitable to walk in a group. I only accept them into pack walks if they demonstrate a high level of obedience (don't bark, return when called, are comfortable around other animals). It is, in fact, easier to maintain control of a group than a single animal. Dogs are pack animals, stay together and take lead from the alpha (me). I regularly receive compliments about how well the pack behaves from members of the public. My groups have NEVER had an incident and I have never been fined or ticketed by animal control.

Profit margins in this business are very small. The four dog per person rule will make it impossible to make a living at current rates. My clients include shift workers like police, doctors, and EMTs, disabled persons and the elderly who can't always give their dogs the exercise they require. This is a needed service. I have changed the lives of people and their dogs for the better by training them and giving them the tools to maintain well trained and socialized animals. Dog walking services are needed more today than ever before due people's increasingly

hectic schedules.

The first rule posted at the Southerland park is that your dog needs to be comfortable around other animals, or they ought to use one of the other city facilities. When I encounter dogs and their owners who aren't used to the off-leash environment I encourage them to walk with us so the people and their dogs can learn to socialize with other dogs.

The off-leash area is my office. I want it to be clean. I pick up after all my dogs AND any feces I come across during my walks.

The committee's suggestion of having some dogs on leash while four are off-leash would make it harder to intervene/correct behaviour in the unlikely event that a member of my pack got in fight or failed to return when called.

I suggest the current rules of having control of your dogs and cleaning up after them is adequate to govern all dog walkers. Individuals walking smaller groups/individual animals are more likely to not control them or pick up after them than a professional. A possible compromise may be to require a permit/license for professional dog walkers/trainers.

Respectfully,

Rick Deitner

[REDACTED]

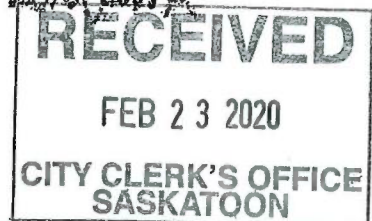
[REDACTED]

Attached: Letters from customers
Attachments
[letters_from_customers.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/374645>

Mayor Charlie Clark & City Council;
Office of the Mayor
222 Third Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5
February 12, 2020



To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council;

I'm writing to you as a dog owner and as a customer of a dog walking company in Saskatoon to express my disappointment and concern at your proposed bylaw amendment to limit the number of dogs that can go to a dog park to just four dogs. I urge you reconsider. I don't believe that the proposed amendment will improve safety in dog parks as all of the issues I observe in off-leash dog parks are not related to the number of dogs a person had with them but rather was related to the training or negligence of the dog handler. For those of us who employ dog walkers, our ability to provide proper exercise to our dogs and be responsible dog owners will be greatly reduced if you enact this bylaw.

I have been a dog owner for almost all my life and have been a consumer of off-leash dog parks in Saskatoon for many years. I walk my dog personally in an off-leash dog park weekly but also employ a professional dog walker twice a week because I work full time and am enrolled in post-secondary education. My dog is a 130lb bull mastiff so I appreciate the importance of his obedience to me at all times. I took great care to ensure he was socialized and trained correctly through multiple dog behavior classes and through the ongoing training he receives through his dog walker. I believe it's as important for me to be knowledgeable of my dogs' behavior as it is for my dog to be properly trained and obedient to me so I can be a responsible dog owner.

I know that my dog walker feels the same way and is able to control all of the dogs with him. Since I've employed my dog walker, I've observed my dogs' interactions with other dogs in dog parks to be more relaxed and playful and his obedience to me has improved. My dog is more tired and relaxed after he's been for a pack walk than when he just goes with me because he gets to interact with more dogs.

I have had mostly good experiences in off-leash dog parks in Saskatoon, but when I have had problems it has never been with a professional dog walker with multiple dogs (they're the ones who are always well behaved) - rather it has always been with humans walking their own dogs who were not properly trained and socialized. I have observed owners with single dogs not clean up after their dogs defecate, bring their small children and allow them to run into groups of dogs without regard for the child's safety or not correct their dogs when they exhibit aggressive behavior. As an example, a mother with her three small children once allowed her children to run over to our dogs while her dog was growling at my dog with aggressive posturing. I called my own dog away because I did not want my dog or her children to be bit but she was completely ignorant to the danger she allowed her children to be in and that her dog needed correction. Her lack of control of her dog and awareness of his behavior put her family, my and my dog's safety at risk. Alternatively, the dog walkers I've witnessed have always had their dogs in their control and I've even observed them assist owners in need of help and they always clean up after the dogs! In my opinion, an untrained dog owner with one dog is much more of a liability than a knowledgeable and experienced dog handler with any number of dogs who are properly trained and controlled (indeed they likely improve the overall safety of the park with the additional support they provide!)

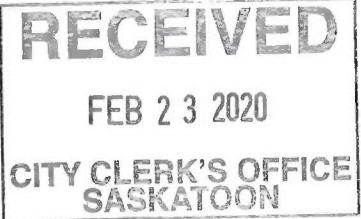
I share your concern that dog handlers and dogs are safe when they visit off-leash dog parks, but I don't believe that a bylaw limiting the number of dogs will improve park safety. I believe that improved knowledge of dog behavior by humans bringing dogs to the dog park and proper training and socialization of dogs is the only intervention that will improve off-leash park experiences and overall safety for everyone. I don't know what I would do without my dog walker - please don't destroy his business through enacting this bylaw - I really need this service to continue my other commitments!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Mark

Amy Mark,
Saskatoon Resident (Western Crescent - East College Park)



February 16 2020

To who it may concern

We are writing this letter to voice our concerns that Alpha Adventures is being limited to a pre determined number of dogs.

We have been using Alpha Adventures now for approximately 5 months and have noticed a huge improvement in our dog Tara. She is more responsive to recall, has better vehicle manners and is more behaved with other dogs when we take her to dog parks.

We have Alpha Adventures service twice a week and our dog Tara looks forward to her outings with Ricky. When we mention him by name to Tara she is extremely excited and can't wait to hear our garage door open. Ricky from Alpha Adventures always greets Tara with excitement. To lose this would be a great disappointment for our dog Tara and other dogs like her. We know another pet owner that referred us to Alpha Adventures and know that their pet is just as excited for its time with the Alpha Adventures pack.

We believe that Ricky from Alpha Adventures is very professional at what he does.

At our original meeting Ricky met with us and our dog Tara. He assessed her on her manners, recall and behaviour. After his assessment, Ricky let us know that he will have to leash walk her with the pack that he hand selected because of their personalities until he feels comfortable with her.

We truly believe that restricting Alpha Adventures and other dog walkers to a limit of dogs they walk at any given time will cause clients to seek other means of care or no care at all, which may in turn be too much of a financial burden on the service providers and clients alike.

In schools and daycare for children they have higher limits of children to care giver. Our pets are our children. Our dog Tara has been learning with each given day that she is with the Alpha Adventures pack much like children learn from each other.

We believe that it would be a travesty to lose this beneficial service for our dog Tara and Alpha Adventures. We hope that you would reconsider your decision to such low limits of dogs walked.

Sincerely
Aaron McDowell and Colette McCarthy

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2020

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SASKATOON

Hagen Herrmann & Sheena Pockett

University Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N

Feb 21, 2020

Cynthia Block
Ward 6 Councilor
City of Saskatoon
222 3rd Ave North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

Dear Cynthia Block,

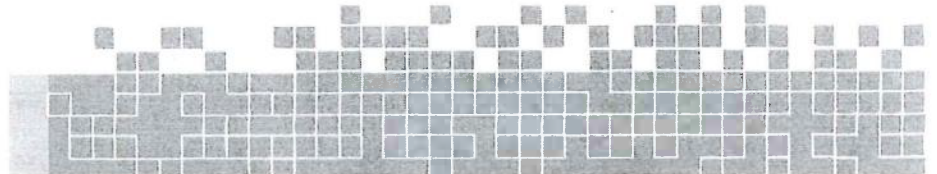
We write to you to express our sincere concerns about a key change that is being proposed to the city of Saskatoon's off-leash dog park rules/bylaws. While we do understand that the wants and needs of all the users of this space must somehow be balanced, we feel that limiting the number dogs that can be handled by a single person to a maximum of 4 will not only impact small business owners such as professional dog walkers, but also residents like us who rely on their services.

Our professional dog walker Ricky with Alpha Adventures has delivered great service for our 2 dogs over the past several years, picking them up from our place twice weekly, and going on adventure walks at the different off-leash dog parks the city has set up. He usually has a pack of at least 6-8 dogs that he takes on these walks, and we trust that he carries out this service in a safe and professional manner. If this rule change were to take effect, not only would this wreak havoc for Ricky's small business, and by extension his family, but it will also affect our work life balance as we will have to find alternate ways to get our dogs the exercise they require. As a dog owner yourself, we believe you know just what that means on a day-to-day basis.

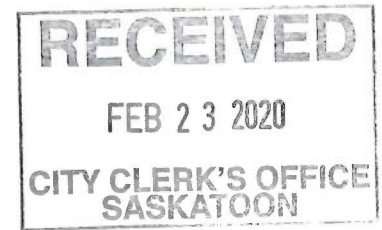
It is our hope that the issue outlined in this letter can be addressed at the council review of these proposed rule amendments, and that a pragmatic solution can be found. We stand by our professional dog walker and the other service providers in the space and hope that they can be kept exempt of this rule, were it to be accepted by council.

Sincerely,

Hagen Herrmann & Sheena Pockett



February 12 2020



To Whom It May concern:

Im writing in regards to having our family dog go on
PACK WALKS 2X week

This is the best thing we have done as we both work Full
time jobs and have no time to take our dogs for the
exercising and socializing she deserves and needs.

We met Rick threw Alpha Adventures and trust him
110% with our dog and the other dogs on there pack
walk

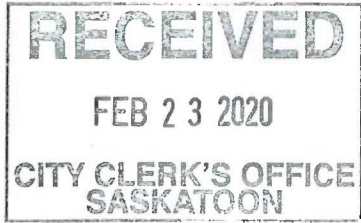
Rick has total control over ALL the animals that he looks
after

I hope that you will listen to people that pay for this
service and allow our TRAINED PACK WALKERS to
continue to do what they are trained to do and LOVE
doing

We would surely miss Rick and our dog would surely miss
him and her friends on there walks if CITY COUNCIL
would not allow this anymore in our city

Jeff& Sherry Kloth

From: Ethan Sawchuk [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, February 23, 2020 7:01 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: feb_18_response_from_city_clerk.pdf



Submitted on Sunday, February 23, 2020 - 19:01

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Sunday, February 23, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Ethan
Last Name Sawchuk
Email [REDACTED]
Address 1814 Cumberland Ave
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code s7h [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)
Subject Animal Control Bylaw amendments
Meeting (if known) Feb 24

Comments

February 23, 2020

Dear City Council,

I would like to speak at the February 24, 2020 City Council Meeting on agenda item 8.1.2 – Proposed amendments to Bylaw 7860 & 8176.

The goal of the recommended amendments, as stated in the Feb 11 report, is to improve upon existing enforcement mechanisms, specifically, to remove ambiguity for the courts.

The Planning Development and Community Services Committee dismissed a citizen’s concern regarding the 4 dog/person rule by indicating that the proposed amendment does not limit the number of dogs an individual could have in an off-leash area, but the number of dogs that could be off leash at any given time. This interpretation was confirmed by the City Clerks office in a Feb 18 e-mail (attached).

The recommended amendment clearly states, “a maximum of 4 dogs per owner at the off-leash areas.”

This obvious discrepancy suggests that more discussion and clarification is required regarding this amendment or you risk re-introducing ambiguity for enforcement officials and the courts.

The report also states, “There are no financial, social, or environmental implications identified.” I suggest that the destroying the livelihood of licenced business owners is a serious financial implication and that this has not been considered. I wonder if council has any statistics on the number if people who occasionally walk more than four dogs at a time? I expect council has received several letters from individuals who depend on dog walking services outlining the social impact of this amendment.

I request that council remove the 4 dog/person amendment until the intent can be clarified and the financial and social implications can be assessed.

Kind Regards,
Ethan Sawchuk

████ Cumberland Ave
Saskatoon, SK
S7H █████

████████████████████
████████████

Attachments

[feb_18_response_from_city_clerk.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/374656>



From: "Bryant, Shellie" <Shellie.Bryant@Saskatoon.ca>

Date: February 18, 2020 at 11:37:48 AM CST

To: [REDACTED] >

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Bylaw No. 7860, The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999 and Bylaw No. 8176, The Dangerous Animals Bylaw, 2003 [File No. CK 151-15 and RCD 151-3]

Dear Rick Deitner,

The Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services, at its meeting held on February 11, 2020, considered the above-noted matter and resolved as noted. Corresponding information can be found [here](#).

7.2.1 Proposed Amendments to Bylaw No. 7860, The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999 and Bylaw No. 8176, The Dangerous Animals Bylaw, 2003 [File No. CK 151-15 and RCD 151-3]

Committee resolved:

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that:

1. Proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 7860, *The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999* and Bylaw No. 8176, *The Dangerous Animals Bylaw, 2003* as outlined in the February 11, 2020 report of the General Manager, Community Services Department, be approved; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to make the necessary amendments to Bylaw No. 7860, *The Animal Control Bylaw, 1999*, and Bylaw No. 8176, *The Dangerous Animals Bylaw, 2003*.

We want to make you aware that the proposed regulation for a maximum of four dogs per owner at the off-leash areas is only limiting the amount of dogs that can be off-leash at one time. Your communication will be submitted to City Council, at its meeting to be held February 24, 2020, as part of this file. You are welcome to attend this meeting and/or email a letter providing additional comments and/or requesting to speak which must be received by the City Clerk's Office no later than 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 24, 2020, or delivered in writing to the City Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. of the business day preceding the meeting. Your comments are limited to five (5) minutes.

If you have any questions on process, please do not hesitate to call our office at 306-975-3240.

Regards,

Shellie Bryant | tel 306-975-2880

Deputy City Clerk, City Clerk's Office

City of Saskatoon | 222 3rd Avenue North | Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5

shellie.bryant@saskatoon.ca

www.saskatoon.ca

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