

**CITY OF FERGUSON
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

Index as:

Barking Dogs

BARKING DOG INCIDENTS

480.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to provide officers of the Ferguson Police Department with guidelines to follow when handling "Barking Dog" assignments.

480.01 POLICY

There are several issues to consider in dealing with "Barking Dog" assignments. The first one is keeping the peace between complainant and the dog's owner. Secondly, the public relations aspect in dealing with the involved parties which requires that the matter is handled in the most expeditious manner. Officers may adjust the procedural guidelines at their discretion based on the totality of the situation; however, supervisors should be notified of any modification of the above procedures.

480.02 PROCEDURE.

- A. On the initial call for police assistance, the officer will first contact the reporting party and determine that a problem exists. On contact with the complainant, the officer will determine the location of the barking dog and the nature of the complaint. The officer will also explain to the complainant the department's procedures for handling "Dog Barking" incidents.
- B. The officer will then proceed to the animal's location and attempt to contact its owner. After explaining that the dog has been barking and creating a nuisance, the officer will give a copy of the city ordinance (Sec. 6-11) to the owner and will explain the department's "Dog Barking" procedures.
- C. If the animal's owner cannot be contacted, the officer will cause a letter to be sent through the records division that provides the above information.
- D. A C.A.D. (Computer Aided Dispatch) entry will be made reflecting either that the owner was contacted or a letter sent.
- E. On receipt of a second call to the same location for a "Dog Barking" assignment, the officer will complete a C.A.D. narrative referring to the first incident and using the complainant as the victim and reflecting the officer's observations. The officer will again contact both complainant and owner and inform both that the next time that a

April 21, 2010

- "Dog Barking Nuisance" call is received, a summons will be issued to the animal's owner.
- F. On receipt of a third "Barking Dog" call at the same location and the officer is able to personally verify the complaint; a summons will be issued to the dog's owner citing a violation of Ferguson Municipal Code Chapter 6-11. If the issuing officer cannot personally contact the owner, he will request officers from other shifts to make contact and serve the summons.
- G. If on receipt of a third "Barking Dog" call to the same location, the officer is unable to personally verify that a dog is creating a nuisance, an incident report and summons will be prepared using the complainant as the victim. The summons, the incident report and a signed complaint by the complainant will then be forwarded to the City of Ferguson Court for prosecution.
- H. The incident report will list all three dates and times of the "barking dog" nuisance calls and the subsequent accumulation and results of police service regarding the complaints.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colonel Thomas Jackson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel