

South Bend Animal Welfare Commission  
Hearing Minutes

July 15, 2021  
1815 Hours

County City Building  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
227 West Jefferson Blvd  
South Bend, IN 46601

Hearing Case Number 2021-07 City of South Bend v. Chris Love (Order Issued July 8, 2021)

Animal Control Commission Members Present: Dr. Mariah Covey, Rebecca Strand, Karen Haun, Pam Wesolowski, and Barb Leavell

City Staff Present: Lindsey Cuellar -SBARC Shelter Manager, Tom Panowicz-Attorney for SBARC, and Dani Campbell Weiss-Commission Attorney

1. The hearing was called to order by Virginia Wolfe, the Hearing Officer at 1815 hours.
  - A. Hearing regarding Habitual Animal Offender residing at 1037 Twykenham Drive, South Bend.
  - B. Respondent is Chris Love.
  - C. File was opened in May 2017.
2. Service was made and accepted by Hearing Officer.
3. Tom Panowicz called Lindsey Cuellar to give testimony regarding the Citations and AWA's.
  - A. File on the Respondent was opened in May 2017.
  - B. Three (3) dogs were registered to Respondent.
    1. Cali a Rottweiler mix, two years old and not altered.
    2. Smoke a Rottweiler mix, one year old and not altered.
    3. Neeko Akita mix, two years old and not altered.
  - C. Five AWA's were given to Respondent between May 2017 to May 2020.
  - D. Sixteen (16) Citations were given to Respondent between May 2017 to February 2020.
  - E. A breeder's permit was issued in January 2018 which expired January 2019.
  - F. SBARC has no record of any rabies vaccinations.
  - G. Respondent had between eight to nine dogs, three of those were returned.
  - H. SBARC received a call regarding this address, at that time three German Shepherds, three Rottweiler, and two Akitas were seen along with an Akita was running at large.
  - I. SBARC saw a breeding facility in the basement.
    1. At the time SBARC was there, saw no food or water and it was cold for the dogs.

2. The floor was covered in feces.
3. Respondent was cited at that point in time.

J. Several exhibits were given into evidence.

1. Exhibit one (1) was a Notice of Hearing, Affidavit of Service, Order to Comply along with a Revised Notice of Hearing packet.
2. Exhibit two (2) is a summary from SBARC regarding this case
3. Exhibit three (3) is an Person View Report.
4. Exhibit four (4) is an Animal View Report for Layla.
5. Exhibit five (5) is an SBARC Kennel Card for a grey Pitt Bull
6. Exhibit six (6) is paperwork from Indiana Secretary of State regarding K9 Love, LLC.
7. Exhibit seven (7) are pictures that were found on Facebook.
8. Exhibit eight (8) is a License Renewal Notice.
9. Exhibit nine (9) are AWA's with attached spreadsheet.
10. Exhibit ten (10) are Ordinance Violation Citations with attached spreadsheet.
11. Exhibit eleven (11) are photos taken by SBARC dated January 27, 2018.
12. Exhibit twelve (12) are photos taken by SBARC dated May 3, 2018.

K. South Bend Animal Care and Control is asking the Commission for a label of Habitual Animal Offender with Respondent unable to own dogs for at least five (5) years.

L. City rests their case at this time.

4. Respondent, Chris Love, presented his case.

- A. Had animals seized in 2018.
- B. States he has a plan to obtain different dog breeds so he can open which he calls a dog sanctuary.
- C. States he sees dogs as a product.
- D. States he only takes pictures and facilitate the selling of dogs from a list of breeders he's approved of.
- E. States he's personally visited all the breeders he deals with but refuses to inform SBARC the names and addresses of said breeders.
- F. Thinks more dogs need to be bred with guidelines to make "pure" dogs.
- G. Receives money from the sale of dogs online.
- H. Respondent did not give any paper evidence.

5. The Commission discussed and voted on items listed below.

- A. If Respondent should have a lifetime ban.
- B. Respondent be banned from breeding dogs.
- C. If Respondent should only have a ten year ban.
- D. If Respondent should be labeled a habitual animal offender.

6. The Commission was divided regarding this issue, a majority agreed with Respondent being label a habitual animal offender.

7. The Commission had three votes for a lifetime ban with no breeding

with one Commission Member abstaining.

- A. Respondent is to let SBARC know if he moves back to South Bend.
- B. A proof of current address if Respondent moves back to South Bend.
- C. Dogs must be spayed or neutered.
- D. Proof of license and vaccinations.

Hearing Adjourned at 2015 hours.