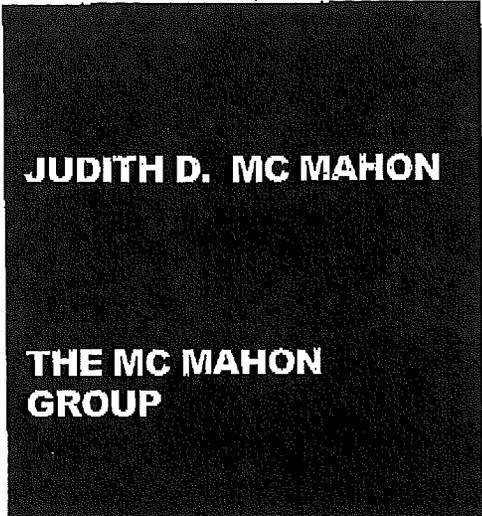


ORD-24 CORRESPONDENCE - Judith McMahon

6285 E. Spring St., #252N  
Long Beach, CA 90808-4000  
(562) 879-8068 Cell  
(562) 493-2575 Office  
(562) 598-0564 Fax

Themcmahongroup@aol.com  
www.themcmahongroup.com



# Fax

To: <u>LBCity Clerk</u>	From: <u>Judith D. McMahon, Esq.</u>
Fax: <u>(562) 570-6789</u>	Pages: <u>12</u> (including cover)
Phone:	Date: <u>3/16/15</u>
Re:	CC:
<u>Mandatory Spay/Neuter Ordinance</u>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Please Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Please Recycle	

Please add the attached letters to the official record regarding the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. Thank you

- Irish Terrier Club of America
- Irish Terrier Club of Southern California
- Judith D. McMahon, Esq.
- Christine Randle
- Terry Cassidy
- Suson Gibson
- David J. McMahon



February 24, 2015

Hon. Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Re: OPPOSE Mandatory Spay Neuter Ordinance

Dear Mayor Garcia:

I am writing to express the opposition of the Irish Terrier Club of America (ITCA) to the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance being proposed in your City. Founded in 1897, the ITCA is the parent breed club for the Irish Terrier. We have nearly 400 members worldwide, including a large and dedicated constituency in the State of California. Our main objective is to protect and advance the interests of the breed. To that end, we have a long and outstanding tradition of care and passion for the Irish Terrier in particular and for all purebred dogs in general.

While the apparent intent this proposed ordinance is to reduce the number of dogs in your City's animal shelter (which is an admirable goal), this ordinance will not accomplish that goal. It will, however, severely impact responsible owners and breeders of purebred dogs in the City of Long Beach. Many of our members throughout the country spend considerable sums of money each year participating in dog shows in Long Beach, which benefits your community. We have concerns about encouraging our members to participate in events in a community that does not value dogs as we do.

Jurisdictions that have imposed mandatory spay/neuter laws have found them to be costly and unenforceable. Analysis of data from other jurisdictions shows that animal control costs are likely to rise, euthanasia rates increase and pet licensing drop off. Money to enforce this ordinance will have to be taken from other vital local services.

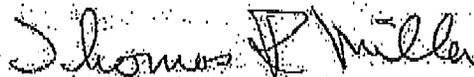
Furthermore, proponents of mandatory spay/neuter legislation presume that pets end up in animal shelters because of pet overpopulation and that mandated sterilization will end the problem. Facts show that many animals in shelters today are already neutered, and are taken to shelters because of behavior issues, poor breed choices, job or housing problems, illness or old age. These issues will not be resolved by mandatory spay/neuter legislation. A better solution is to work with responsible owners and breeders to improve

Hon. Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
February 24, 2015  
Page 2

public education and thereby reduce the number of unwanted pets. Our members stand ready to assist in those positive efforts.

For these and other reasons, and out of our commitment to the advancement of the Irish Terrier, the ITCA opposes mandatory spay/neuter of dogs.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Miller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Tom Miller  
President  
Irish Terrier Club of America

cc: Members of the Long Beach City Council



February 8, 2015

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

**Re: OPPOSE mandatory spay/neuter ordinance**

Dear Mayor Garcia:

I am writing to express the opposition of the Irish Terrier Club of Southern California (ITCSC) to the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance being proposed in Long Beach. The Irish Terrier Club of Southern California has over 80 members (many of whom reside in Long Beach and surrounding communities), and we oppose this proposed ordinance, as we believe it will be detrimental to all dog owners. It will increase costs to local animal control authorities and will divert resources that should be directed to dealing with irresponsible owners, regardless of the reproductive status of the animal.

The Irish Terrier Club of Southern California has a long history of promoting and encouraging responsible breeding practices and responsible animal ownership. We offer educational seminars at our Regional Specialty shows, and have participated in the Meet The Breeds booth at the AKC/Eukanuba shows each year during the time it was held in Long Beach, educating the public on responsible dog ownership. A number of our members have dogs which have been qualified as therapy as well as service animals, thus providing an additional benefit to the communities in which they live, including Long Beach.

*Judith D. McMahon  
Attorney at Law  
2127 Petaluma Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90815  
(562) 493-2575  
(562) 598-0564 Facsimile  
e-mail: judia1@aol.com*

February 22, 2015

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

and Members of Long Beach City Council

**Re: Oppose mandatory spay/neuter ordinance**

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to a proposal that would require mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs over four months of age.

I am a lifelong resident of the City of Long Beach, having owned my own home in the City for more than 40 years. I raise and show purebred Irish Terriers and have spent considerable money over the years participating in dog shows held within the City. In fact, I was in charge of my breed's Meet The Breeds booth at the AKC/Eukanuba show for the 5 years it was held in Long Beach. I currently have two retired AKC Champion females, both of which are spayed; and one AKC Champion male, whom I am currently showing in competitions. My dogs have always been licensed, as required by the City. In fact, I pay considerably more in license fees for my intact male dog, even though as a senior citizen I would qualify for a much lesser fee if he was altered. My dogs never leave my premises unless they are properly leashed and walking with me; in fact, my gate is padlocked at all times, and my dogs have never run loose in my neighborhood. One of my dogs is also an active therapy dog, thereby providing needed assistance to our community.

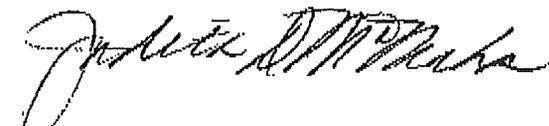
I am a responsible dog owner, and I firmly believe that sterilization is a decision that should be made between an owner and his/her veterinarian based upon a variety of factors.

Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the root issue – irresponsible ownership. This type of law will not impact irresponsible owners who simply will not license their pets. On the contrary, it will hurt responsible owners

and breeders who raise healthy, well-cared for dogs. Responsible owners should not be penalized because irresponsible owners cause problems for the community. Our taxpayer funds would be much better utilized by concentrating animal control efforts on dogs whose behavior demonstrates that they are a problem for our community.

I respectfully request that you support responsible dog owners and breeders by opposing efforts to promote mandatory spay/neuter in Long Beach.

Sincerely,



Judith D. McMahon, Esq.

February 28, 2015

Hon. Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Re: **OPPOSE mandatory spay/neuter ordinance**

Dear Mayor Garcia:

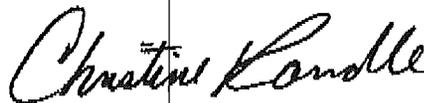
I am writing to you to express my opposition to a proposal that would require mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs over four months of age.

Although I do not live in Long Beach, I regularly travel to your city with my intact dogs to attend and participate in dog shows. I spend a considerable amount of money on hotel rooms, parking fees, dining out in restaurants, etc. while I am in Long Beach. As a dog enthusiast who is committed to my breed and to responsible breeding practices, I would not choose to spend my money in a jurisdiction that did not support these efforts.

Sterilization of a dog is a decision that should be made between an owner and a veterinarian based upon a variety of factors. Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue – irresponsible ownership. These laws are extremely difficult to enforce and can be evaded by irresponsible dog owners by not licensing their pets. It will hurt responsible breeders who raise healthy, well cared-for dogs and work to ensure that their puppies are placed with responsible owners. Concentrating animal control efforts on dogs whose behavior demonstrates that they are a problem for the community would be a much better use of taxpayer funds.

I respectfully ask that you support responsible owners and breeders by opposing efforts of promote mandatory spay/neuter in Long Beach.

Sincerely,



Christine Randle

1226 Fruitdale Ave., San Jose, CA

cc: Members of Long Beach City Council

February ~~23~~, 2015

Hon. Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

Re: **OPPOSE** mandatory spay/neuter ordinance

Dear Mayor Garcia:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to a proposal that would require mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs over four months of age.

Although I do not live in Long Beach, I regularly travel to your city with my intact dogs to attend and participate in dog shows. I spend a considerable amount of money on hotel rooms, parking fees, dining out in restaurants, etc. while I am in Long Beach. As a dog enthusiast who is committed to my breed and to responsible breeding practices, I would not choose to spend my money in a jurisdiction that did not support these efforts.

Sterilization of a dog is a decision that should be made between an owner and a veterinarian based upon a variety of factors. Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue - irresponsible ownership. These laws are extremely difficult to enforce and can be evaded by irresponsible dog owners by not licensing their pets. It will hurt responsible breeders who raise healthy, well-cared-for dogs and work to ensure that their puppies are placed with responsible owners. Concentrating animal control efforts on dogs whose behavior demonstrates that they are a problem for the community would be a much better use of taxpayer funds.

I respectfully ask that you support responsible owners and breeders by opposing efforts of promote mandatory spay/neuter in Long Beach.

Sincerely,

Sherry J. Cassidy (name)  
9954 Rocky Ridge Road  
Escondido, CA (address)  
92026

cc: Members of Long Beach City Council

23514 Ladeene  
Torrance, CA 90505  
February 23, 2015

Hon. Robert Garcia, Mayor  
Long Beach City Council Members  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

**Re: OPPOSE mandatory spay/neuter ordinance**

Dear Mayor Garcia and Long Beach City Council Members:

I am deeply concerned about the proposal that would require mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs over four months of age. Please do not go forward with this proposed ordinance. It would hinder my family from participating in events in your fair city.

Although I do not live in Long Beach, I regularly travel to your city with my intact dogs to attend and participate in dog shows. I spend a considerable amount of money on hotel rooms, parking fees, dining out in restaurants, etc. while I am in Long Beach. We love going to the Reef Restaurant and spending the weekend at Great Western Terrier Association at the Queen Mary. I am afraid that GWTA will no longer be held at the Queen Mary if your ordinance goes through. Believe me, I've been to lots of shows and the Long Beach venue is more beautiful than any other. I am also afraid that Eukanuba will never return to the Long Beach Convention Center if this ordinance passes. In the past, we brought our entire family and even our son's Boy Scout Troop to the Eukanuba weekend. Those were fantastic weekends.

We would also not be able to join our family members who live in Long Beach for our regular long walks and lunches in the Belmont Shores area. We would have to go to another city that does not require MSN. We really love Belmont Shores.

Personally, I think that mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the heart of the issue – irresponsible ownership. I would like to tell you of my personal experience here in Torrance. We have a neighbor who feeds feral cats. Over time, it went from being a nuisance (cat noises waking people up at night) to being a health hazard (lots of fleas on people and rodents coming into the area to feed on cat food). We had the city and animal control assist us after my son went into anaphylactic shock when he sat on a chair cushion covered with cat hair. The city trapped 21 cats. Most were euthanized. People like my deranged neighbor will continue in their dangerous behaviors despite any MSN law.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider this ordinance and support responsible owners and breeders by opposing efforts to promote mandatory spay/neuter in Long Beach.

Sincerely,



Susan Gibson

February 22, 2015

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

and Members of Long Beach City Council

**Re: Oppose mandatory spay/neuter ordinance**

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am writing to you to express my opposition to a proposal that would require mandatory spaying/neutering of dogs over four months of age.

I am a long time resident of the City of Long Beach, residing in the Fifth District. I raise and show purebred Irish Terriers and have spent considerable money over the years participating in dog shows held within the City. My wife and I currently have two retired AKC Champion females, both of which are spayed; and one AKC Champion male, whom we are currently showing in competitions. Our dogs have always been licensed, as required by the City. In fact, we pay considerably more in license fees for our intact male dog, even though as a senior citizen I would qualify for a much lesser fee if he was altered. Our dogs never leave our premises unless they are properly leashed and walking with one of us; in fact, our gate is padlocked at all times, and our dogs have never run loose in the neighborhood.

I am a responsible dog owner, and I firmly believe that sterilization is a decision that should be made between an owner and his or her veterinarian based upon a variety of factors.

Mandatory spay/neuter is an ineffective solution to animal control problems because it fails to address the root issue – irresponsible ownership. This type of law will not impact irresponsible owners who simply will not license their pets. On the contrary, it will hurt responsible owners and breeders who raise healthy, well-cared for dogs. Responsible owners should not be penalized because irresponsible owners cause problems for the community. Our taxpayer funds would be much better utilized by concentrating animal control efforts on dogs whose behavior demonstrates that they are a problem for our community.

I fully support voluntary spaying or neutering of dogs. Long Beach has programs which are working well to deal with animal control issues and I am more than willing to help in supporting and improving those programs for the betterment of all Long Beach residents. We do not need the government imposing decisions upon us which are unnecessary, unproductive, unenforceable and costly.

I respectfully request that you support responsible dog owners and breeders by opposing efforts to promote mandatory spay/neuter in Long Beach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. McMahon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David J. McMahon  
2127 Petaluma Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90815



February 8, 2015

The Honorable Robert Garcia, Mayor  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, California 90802

**Re: OPPOSE mandatory spay/neuter ordinance**

Dear Mayor Garcia:

I am writing to express the opposition of the Irish Terrier Club of Southern California (ITCSC) to the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance being proposed in Long Beach. The Irish Terrier Club of Southern California has over 80 members (many of whom reside in Long Beach and surrounding communities), and we oppose this proposed ordinance, as we believe it will be detrimental to all dog owners. It will increase costs to local animal control authorities and will divert resources that should be directed to dealing with irresponsible owners, regardless of the reproductive status of the animal.

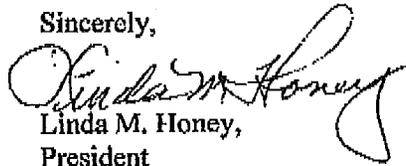
The Irish Terrier Club of Southern California has a long history of promoting and encouraging responsible breeding practices and responsible animal ownership. We offer educational seminars at our Regional Specialty shows, and have participated in the Meet The Breeds booth at the AKC/Eukanuba shows each year during the time it was held in Long Beach, educating the public on responsible dog ownership. A number of our members have dogs which have been qualified as therapy as well as service animals, thus providing an additional benefit to the communities in which they live, including Long Beach.

Among other dog-related events, we sponsor a regional specialty show annually in Southern California, held for the past several years at The Queen Mary Events Park in Long Beach in conjunction with the Great Western Terrier Association shows. In addition to our local dogs, Irish Terriers come from all over the country to participate in these shows. Owners of these dogs stay in hotels in Long Beach, purchase concessions on the show grounds and attend luncheons and dinners at local restaurants, notably The Reef Restaurant, Gladstone's and George's Greek Cafe in Long Beach, CA. In short, our members spend considerable monies in Long Beach for dog-related events and items throughout the year. We would have difficulty convincing our members to participate in events in a City that does not value dogs as we do.

Owners of intact animals already pay higher license fees and there is no proof that intact animals require a greater expenditure of animal control funds. Many dogs are taken to shelters because of behavior issues, poor breed choices, illness or old age or because of their owners' job or housing problems. These issues will not be resolved by mandatory spay/neuter requirements. A better solution is to work with responsible owners and breeders to improve public education and thereby reduce the number of unwanted pets. Our members stand ready to assist in those positive efforts.

For these and other reasons, I respectfully ask that you support responsible owners and breeders. The Irish Terrier Club of Southern California opposes mandatory spay/neuter requirements, but would welcome the chance to assist Long Beach to improve its currently existing voluntary programs.

Sincerely,



Linda M. Honey,  
President

cc: Members of the Long Beach City Council