



Bark Down Barriers

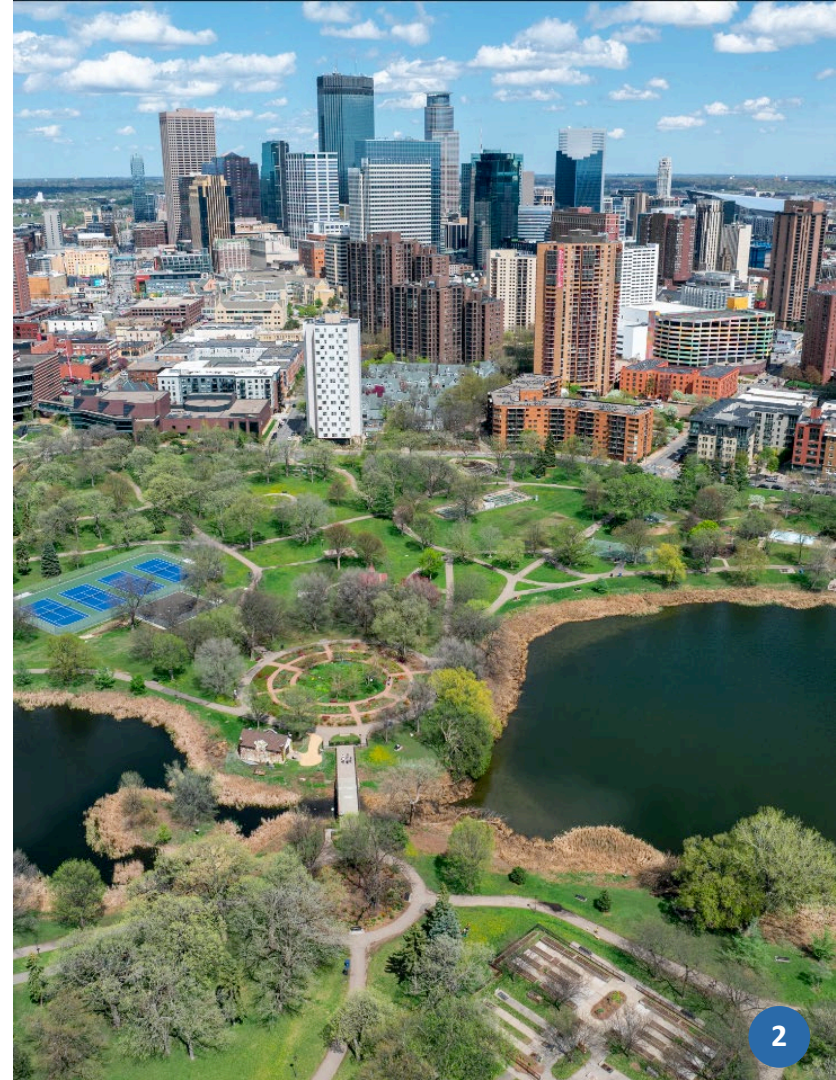
Tony Schendel

Director of Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC)

August 19, 2026

Bark Down Barriers

- Amending MCO 66.80, which outlines restrictions for justice-impacted residents to have certain pets.
- Specifically, it requires a prohibited animal permit for those who:
 - Have been convicted of a qualifying felony under State Statute, and
 - Wish to own an animal that weighs more than 20 pounds or could pose a danger to the public if misused.





Key changes of the proposal

Removing conditions and restrictions on pet ownership solely due to a prior conviction for certain felonies.

Striking language that currently:

- Makes this ordinance apply to anyone convicted of a qualifying felony under State Statute, rather than just an animal cruelty conviction.
- Enumerates the reasons why an animal could pose a danger to the public. Even with this change, MACC will maintain the authority to regulate ownership when someone previously owned a dog declared as dangerous/potentially dangerous.

Adding language to:

- Explicitly provide MACC the authority to deny permit applications for those with an animal cruelty conviction under:
 - Minn. Statute Section 609.205, Clause (4)
 - Minn. Statute Section 343.21

Reasons driving the proposal

- The current language is unnecessarily restrictive. It incorrectly assumes that someone with a qualifying felony under State Statute would not be a good pet owner.
- Going through the application process costs justice-impacted residents \$250.
- Because MACC rarely finds cause to deny an application, the process and fee act more as a burden, rather than an effective tool to protect public safety.





Goals and impacts

- Remove hidden fees and barriers to justice-impacted residents who wish to own pets and may be trying to find housing.
- Align City code with the 2025 Civil Rights Ordinance, upholding equal rights and protections for all renters.
- Provide MACC with a more effective tool through City ordinance to deny an application based on an animal cruelty conviction.





Implementation

- The ordinance could take effect immediately upon publication to:
 - Eliminate the permit requirement, and
 - Instantly remove the \$250 application fee for justice-impacted residents.
- Implementation will include relatively simple, operational changes.



For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact 311. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. Para ayuda, llame al 311. Rau kev pab, hu 311. Hadii aad caawimaad u baahantahay, wac 311.