

City of Minneapolis

Request for Committee Action

RCA #: RCA-2026-00939

TO COMMITTEE(S):

#	Committee Name	Meeting Date	Submission Deadline
1	Public Health, Safety & Equity	Aug 19, 2026	Aug 6, 2026

FROM: City Council

LEAD STAFF: Celeste Robinson, Amy Umanzor
Diaz

PRESENTED BY: Council Members Wonsley,
Chowdhury, Whiting and Chavez

SUBJECT:

Pet ownership restrictions ordinance

ACTION ITEM(S)

#	File Type	Subcategory	Item Description	Public Hearing
1	Ordinance	Code Amendment	Passage of Ordinance amending Title 4, Chapter 66 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Animal Care and Control: Dangerous and Potentially Dangerous Animals, removing conditions and restrictions on pet ownership solely due to a prior conviction for certain felonies.	Yes

PREVIOUS ACTIONS

[2026-00871 - Pet ownership restrictions ordinance](#)

[2024-00563 - Civil rights ordinance](#)

WARD / NEIGHBORHOOD / ADDRESS

#	Ward	Neighborhood	Address
1.	Not Applicable		

BACKGROUND ANALYSIS

The Pet Ownership Restrictions Ordinance is an amendment by Council Members Wonsley, Chowdhury, Whiting, and Chavez that removes conditions and restrictions on pet ownership solely due to a prior conviction for certain felonies. Informally, this ordinance is referred to as "Bark Down Barriers" because it removes a barrier facing justice-impacted residents, in alignment Minneapolis ordinances and city values.

Currently, individuals with a felony record may be charged a \$250 fee associated with owning dogs weighing more than 20 pounds or other limited criteria. Bark Down Barriers removes this barrier to pet ownership for justice-impacted individuals. Should the ordinance amendment pass, Minneapolis Animal Care and Control retains the authority to restrict ownership for individuals convicted of a felony for animal mistreatment or using an animal to perpetrate an assault. No changes are made with respect to Minneapolis Animal Care and Control's ability to restrict the ownership of individuals who have demonstrated a failure to comply with city ordinances concerning the ownership of potentially dangerous or dangerous animals

Racial Equity Impact Analysis (REIA)

SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

DOES THIS IMPACT ONE OF THE CITY’S GOAL AREAS?

Policy Goals

- PUBLIC SERVICES

Operational Goals

- DATA
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DESCRIBE THE IMPACT ON SELECTED GOAL AREAS.

In 2025, the Minneapolis City Council included justice-impacted status as a protected class under the Civil Rights Ordinance. Currently, justice-impacted residents have to undergo extra barriers and fees to own dogs weighing more than 20 pounds, solely due to their prior convictions. Also, justice-impacted residents may currently be subject to additional fees for owning a dog, based on certain criteria, despite MACC not declaring that animal either dangerous or potentially dangerous. Removing these barriers aligns with Minneapolis ordinances and city values, ensuring all residents have equal access to public services free from discrimination.

This ordinance was inspired by community engagement with justice-impacted communities and individuals.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN COMPLETING THIS ANALYSIS?

Council staff in consultation with justice-impacted individuals, community organizations, and staff of Minneapolis Animal Care & Control.

SECTION 2: DATA

LIST THE SPECIFIC GEOGRAPHIES THAT WILL BE IMPACTED AND THE RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONSTITUENTS IN THOSE AREAS:

The policy applies citywide and is not limited to specific geographic areas.

WHAT DOES AVAILABLE DATA TELL YOU ABOUT HOW CONSTITUENTS FROM BIPOC COMMUNITIES CURRENTLY RELATE TO THE DESIRED OUTCOME COMPARED TO WHITE CONSTITUENTS?

Residents of color, particularly Black residents, are overrepresented in justice-impacted communities due to decades of systemic racism in the criminal justice system. Justice-impacted residents face significant barriers to re-entry that perpetuate racial inequity.

WHAT DATA IS UNAVAILABLE OR MISSING? HOW CAN YOU OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DATA?

N/A

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

USING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (IAP2) [PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM](#), WHICH PARTICIPATION STRATEGY(S) WAS USED WHEN ENGAGING THOSE WHO WOULD BE MOST IMPACTED?

- COLLABORATE

DESCRIBE THE ENGAGEMENT AND WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

The ordinance was inspired by conversations with justice-impacted residents about barriers they face in re-entry and the need to remove these barriers.

SECTION 4: ANALYSIS

HOW DOES THE OUTCOME FOR THIS ORDINANCE, AMENDMENT, OR POLICY HELP THE CITY ACHIEVE RACIAL EQUITY?

Removing barriers to re-entry and discriminatory fees is one concrete way the City of Minneapolis can support more just and equitable conditions for justice-impacted individuals and communities. Since BIPOC residents are overrepresented in justice-impacted communities, supporting re-entry goes hand in hand with racial equity.

SECTION 5: EVALUATION

HOW WILL IMPACTS BE MEASURED? WHAT ARE THE SUCCESS INDICATORS AND PROCESS BENCHMARKS?

MACC can provide updates and data on adoption rates for dogs over 20 pounds.

HOW WILL THOSE WHO ARE IMPACTED BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS OVER TIME?

Updates by the MACC.