

**City of Cayce  
Regular Council Meeting  
February 1, 2022**

The February Regular Council Meeting was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom video and conferencing software. Those present included Mayor Elise Partin, Mayor Pro Tem James Jenkins and Council Members Phil Carter, Tim James and Hunter Sox. City Manager Tracy Hegler, Assistant City Manager Jim Crosland, Municipal Clerk Mendy Corder, IT Director Jamie Beckham, Finance Director Kelly McMullen, Human Resources Director Lynn Dooley, Chief of Police Chris Cowan and City Attorney Danny Crowe were also in attendance.

Mayor Partin asked if members of the press and the public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the FOIA. Ms. Corder confirmed they were notified.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Partin called the meeting to order and Council Member Sox gave the invocation. Mayor Partin led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to approve the January 10, 2022, Regular Council Meeting minutes and the January 19, 2022, Regular Council Meeting minutes as written. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**Public Comment Regarding Items on the Agenda**

No one signed up for public comment.

**Presentations**

- A. Presentation by Dr. Colette Townsend-Chambers re neighborhood dog concerns

Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that the views and opinions expressed were her own and did not reflect those of her employer. She stated that she spoke at the December 7 Council Meeting to recount her story and since her statement was not added to the minutes of that meeting she was given the opportunity to come and share again. She stated that she was requesting that her statement be submitted to the permanent meeting minutes. She stated that she did forward a color handout with pictures of the dogs involved, the Facebook posts of another Cayce resident who had been attacked by a pit bull and a letter from Mr. James Sant's about his dog attack in Cayce. Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that because of confidentiality concerns, Ms.

Corder could not share them on the virtual screen, but Ms. Corder had emailed them to Council.

Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that it had been three months since her dog Roxy and she were attacked while walking in her neighborhood of Churchill Heights. She stated that her dog stopped to relieve herself on the 1900 block of Parliament, and she began talking to the homeowners. She stated that a large pit bull pushed past her through the closed gate and charged her and her dog unprovoked. She stated that the dog grabbed her dog by the throat which knocked her down to the concrete. Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that she was injured and would have to have surgery for her injuries. She stated that she knew the City could not do anything about the racist statement the dog's owner made by telling her to go back to her neighborhood but she felt the City could address the implicit bias that she experienced from the Animal Control Officer when she arrived on the scene. She stated that when she realized she was the only person of color surrounded by four to five non-colored people who were clearly beginning to change the narrative with the 911 call, she was concerned for her safety.

Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that no one wanted to call and get assistance for her but when they did, the person stated that there were dogs fighting when in fact she and her dog had gotten attacked. She stated that if time were permitted, she would play the audio tape where she can be heard telling the dispatcher that she was attacked. She stated that when the officers showed up she was asked for her ID, even though she told them her address and phone number. She stated that she felt profiled and went from being a victim to being treated like the perpetrator. Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that the Officer seemed to insinuate that it was somehow her fault that she was attacked because she got in the dog's line of sight. She stated that she gave the Officer her ID because she did not want to become another statistic or hashtag. She stated that guns had been mistaken for Tasers all too often.

Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that Newsweek reported that there had been 229 deaths of black Americans after interactions with the police since the murder of George Floyd. She stated that she and Councilman Sox had tried unsuccessfully to get some answers from the City administration and the Police Department as to why she was the only person asked to present an ID being the only person of color on the scene and why the owner was only given a citation for the animal at large, and not the citation per the City Ordinance for a dangerous animal. She stated that she would like to know if the dog had gotten out before and attacked others since that would be a pattern and the owner must be held accountable. She stated that she was not saying that the Officer or anyone else was a bad person. She stated that everyone had biases. Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that when one works for and in the public, those biased beliefs that one holds about people could affect how one treated the taxpaying citizens and could cost them their life.

Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated the Police Department and the City said they wanted the public to trust them but there must be full transparency for that to happen.

She asked if the dog and the dog's owner were a friend of the Officer and therefore not given a citation. She stated that biases held by public servants could endanger the lives of the City's citizens. She stated that she recommended that implicit bias training be given to all officers as soon as possible, and all body cams be required and activated for dog attack calls. She stated that she suggested at the December Council Meeting that an ad hoc committee of diverse constituents be able to assist City Attorney Danny Crowe and an investigation for racial bias and discrimination among all City departments be conducted. Dr. Townsend-Chambers stated that there might be some more hidden figures with racist and discriminatory views working in and for the City of Cayce and they should be uprooted like Marion Hutson was.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions**

#### **A. Discussion and Approval of Ordinance 2022-01 Amending the Business License Tax Class Schedule in Appendix B of the 2022 City Business License Ordinance – First Reading**

Ms. Hegler stated that in November Council approved a new business license Ordinance that was in accordance with the Business License Standardization Act that the State undertook in 2020. She stated that that Ordinance went into effect for the City on January 1, 2022, and included an Appendix B, which listed a business license class schedule. She stated that a few industry sectors were inadvertently left off; Utilities and Special Event Promoters with or without facilities. Ms. Hegler stated that staff recommended approval of adding those to the City's new business license Ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-01 on First Reading. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Items for Discussion and Possible Approval**

#### **A. Discussion and Approval of Projects Submittal to the Lexington County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission**

Ms. Hegler stated that the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission was created by Lexington County. She stated that they had requested eligible entities, which would be cities within the county, provide them a prioritized list of projects that would be considered for funding within the county should they put on the referendum the 1% sales tax for goods and services. She stated that the County had asked for this before having contemplated doing the penny sales tax in 2014 and again in 2020. She stated that for different reasons the project had not moved forward either time.

Ms. Hegler stated that the County had formulated a new master plan to consider the referendum in November of 2022. She stated that staff had reviewed the prior

projects that the City had sent them before. She stated that some of the projects had already been done through other means but staff could put forward some of the prior projects that had not been completed. She stated that staff had been advised that the projects must relate to roadway and traffic improvements. Ms. Hegler stated that staff had also been told the Commission would consider the following projects in the order they are listed - the Avenue stormwater drainage improvements, the Avenues and Broadacres wastewater collection system inflow and infiltration analysis and rehab project, the intersection utility relocation at Highway 302 and 126 and lastly, certain improvements to the Riverwalk. Ms. Hegler stated that these projects were just being recommended to the Commission at Lexington County for consideration if they should proceed with the referendum. She stated that staff would know more once the County started having those discussions. She stated that staff had to have these projects authorized by Council before they could present them to the Commission.

Council Member James made a motion to approve the projects for submittal to the Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins seconded the motion. Council Member Carter asked if the projects list could be modified or was it set in stone. Ms. Hegler stated that probably depended on the County's timing but she thought if the City needed more time it might be possible. She stated that the Commission was meeting in March to discuss the projects so if there was something else Council Member Carter would like to consider but if staff submitted the current list then she thought they would have to ask for an extension or ask for another opportunity. Council Member Carter asked if a deadline was given. Ms. Hegler stated that they did ask that the information be submitted by mid-February. She stated that a consultant was hired by the County to put together all the information that went with the projects. She stated that staff put together the narrative and cost estimates and the consultant would review and package it and then would meet with the Commission next. Council Member Carter asked who would prioritize the projects should the referendum be successful. Ms. Hegler stated that the Commission would. She stated that the Commission asked that the projects be sent to them in priority order and they would go through them and vet them. She stated then they would choose what was still on the list and then how they get prioritized. Council Member Carter asked if the Commission did not take road projects that are DOT or county roads as part of the referendum, and they happen to sit within the City's jurisdiction, if that would hurt the City as far as getting priority. He stated that if there were roads in the project that were going to be paved that are in the City but not City-owned roads would that affect the amount of dollars spent in the City? Ms. Hegler stated that there was a rubric and she had not run that scenario through but could do so and get back to Council Member Carter.

Ms. Hegler stated that she thought the Commission's next step would be to look at the cost of all the projects and how much the penny could generate before they would even know if they could do all the projects but obviously, doing all the projects would not be the case. She stated that she could pose that question and come back to Council. She stated that if they get to a situation where there was not enough funds to go

around, which was highly likely, then if they were going to prioritize roads in a traditional sense, over projects like stormwater then that would probably rise. Mayor Partin called the question which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **Committee Matters**

- A. Approval to Enter the following Committee Approved Minutes into the City's Record
  - Cayce Housing Authority – October 19, 2021
  - Board of Zoning Appeals – November 15, 2021
  - Planning Commission – November 15, 2021
  - Events Committee - November 18, 2021

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to enter the Committee approved minutes into the record. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

### **City Manager's Report**

Ms. Hegler stated that the new fire ladder truck dedication was scheduled for February 11 at 11am in the Fire Bay. She invited everyone to the ceremony. She stated that it was African American History Month and that staff had recently released some legends of Cayce information throughout the City and the African American Committee of the Museum was hosting an event to honor those legends on February 17 at 5pm at the Museum. She stated that she recently saw an article that Ivory Matthews had resigned from the Columbia Housing Authority. She stated that she understood that Ms. Matthews was taking over as Executive Director of Home Forward and the interim currently was Columbia Housing Authority's former COO, Yvonda Bean. She stated that she would send that information to the Cayce Housing Authority. She stated that she recently received a great compliment on staff from resident John Wise who said how great he thought staff was. She stated that he particularly focused on Sanitation staff and how well they had done this season picking up resident's leaves and their attention to things like broken roll carts had been very helpful. He also stated that calling City staff, particularly Ms. Corder and her crew, had been very helpful. Ms. Hegler stated that she had seen a couple of questions about the City's Commissions on social media and thought it might be helpful to give Council some of the State law background in case they received any questions about it. She stated that the first post she saw was questions related to the City paying its Commissioners. She stated that the City's code particularly listed that Commissioners were not paid and that covered anybody on City committees, and boards that were volunteers. Ms. Hegler stated that there was a carve out for Planning Commissioners because the State law that created Planning Commissions did allow for such under code 6-29, which again created Planning Commissions and stated that compensation of members of the Planning Commission may occur but it must be determined by the governing body or the

authority that oversees them which would be Council. She stated that since the City had not established payment for its Planning Commission, which is the only one board or commission that would be allowed to be paid, they were in fact not paid. She stated that the second post she saw on social media was related to concerns or questions about the City's Zoning Technician being named as the Secretary of the Planning Commission. Ms. Hegler stated that was allowed by State law and was actually quite common. She stated that that same enabling legislation stated it shall appoint a secretary of Planning Commission and it could be an officer or an employee of the governing body. She stated that the Zoning Technician had not been named a member of the Commission and that only Council had the authority to do that and it would be a conflict. She stated that the Zoning Technician was not an active member of the Planning Commission and did not engage in discussion or votes or motions.

### **Council Comments**

Council Member Sox stated he had a great time representing the City that day at the Municipal Association's Hometown Legislative Action Day, alongside staff and council members. He stated that he would like to clarify that he misspoke during previous council meetings when he referred to the Federal watch list as the Federal sex offender registry. He stated that he was looking forward to attending the Municipal Elected Officials Institute the following day.

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins stated that he was recently appointed as the Lexington County Municipal Association's Vice President.

Council Member Carter congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins on his appointment. He asked that since the City now had somebody on the inside, could Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins please make sure that Council received notices of the meetings. He stated that he did not know if they had been meeting virtually or in person. He stated that from his understanding a couple of years ago Council chose to go a different direction and he was very happy that the City was back involved with LCMA and included in that, especially with Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins' guidance and leadership there. He stated that he mentioned it actually to Councilman Sox that day at the legislative meeting and stated they would all like to get it going.

### **Executive Session**

- A. Receipt of legal advice relating to claims and potential claims by and against the City and other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege

Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Council Member Carter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote.



### **Reconvene**

After the Executive Session was concluded, Mayor Pro Tem Jenkins made a motion to reconvene the Regular meeting. Council Member Sox seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Mayor Partin announced that no vote was taken in Executive Session other than to adjourn and resume the Regular meeting.

### **Possible Actions by Council in follow up to Executive Session**

Mayor Partin stated that before she took a motion to adjourn she wanted to mention that the City recently hosted students from the Clemson Architecture School in the Cayce River Arts District. She stated that the students came down to enjoy the River Arts District and to try to use a real setting for their class projects. She stated that they were second year students and this would be a great opportunity for them to be able to anchor in a real setting. Mayor Partin stated that it was fun to show them all the murals, the arts and all of the businesses and the good work that the City had been doing to create economic development.

No action was taken in follow up to Executive Session.

### **Adjourn**

Council Member Sox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member James seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by roll call vote. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

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Elise Partin, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Mendy Corder, CMC, Municipal Clerk

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK ON A MATTER APPEARING ON THE MEETING AGENDA, PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MEETING.\* *THANK YOU.*

## COUNCIL MEETING SPEAKERS' LIST

*Date of Meeting*      *February 1, 2022*

Name	Address	Agenda Item

\***Appearance of citizens at Council meetings - City of Cayce Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-71.** Any citizen of the municipality may speak at a regular meeting of the council on a matter pertaining to municipal services and operation, with the exception of personnel matters, by notifying the office of the city manager at least five working days prior to the meeting and stating the subject and purpose for speaking. Additionally, during the **public comment period** as specified on the agenda of a regular meeting of the council, a member of the public may speak on a matter appearing on the meeting agenda, with the exception of personnel matters by signing a speakers list maintained by the city clerk prior to the start of the public comment period. The number of speakers at a council meeting may be limited in the discretion of the mayor or presiding officer, the length of time for any speaker's presentation is limited to a maximum of five minutes, and a presentation may be curtailed if determined to be uncivil, contentious, or disruptive in the discretion of the mayor or presiding officer or by majority of vote of council.

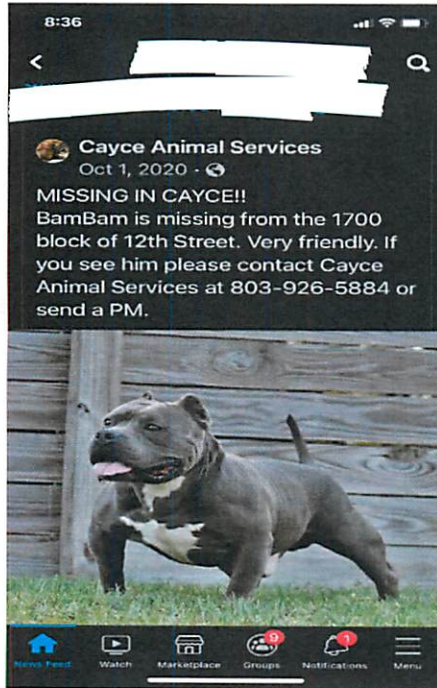


# "Dogs Gone Wild and Racism Rears its Ugly Head in Churchill Heights"

\*Note the facts and opinions shared do not reflect the views of my employer. Dr. Colette Townsend-Chambers, Cayce City Council Meeting, Cayce, SC. 12.7. 2021. On October 21, 2021, after being viciously attacked and knocked down by her dog, the owner did not want to call 911 to assist me and told me to "go back to my neighborhood". She was also not issued a dangerous animal citation as per Cayce city code Sec.8., as the dog came off his property and charged onto the road attacking us without provocation. As a result of the attack, I could not walk home, and my dog and I are both traumatized. I must now wear a brace, use a cane, and may require surgery on my knee. **45 pound, 18-month-old Roxie was clamped about the throat & collar by a 9-year-old dog who was approx. 150 plus pounds of muscle like the grey & white dog shown below.** The public social media posts below show a pro pit-bull bias. There is also a FB post of another Cayce resident who was attacked previously.



Figure 1 Roxie Chambers



## Weblinks and Data on Dog Attacks and Dog Bites

- [https://www.postandcourier.com/news/since-sc-authorities-have-investigated-nearly-incidents-involving-dogs/article\\_fdd27efc-b3f8-11e9-a6ef-4b5d49d0d488.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/news/since-sc-authorities-have-investigated-nearly-incidents-involving-dogs/article_fdd27efc-b3f8-11e9-a6ef-4b5d49d0d488.html)
- [https://www.postandcourier.com/news/authorities-quarantine-dogs-that-attacked-8-year-old-girl-near-summerville/article\\_5da25558-b61f-11e9-8aac-ef1c9cf7ae0b.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/news/authorities-quarantine-dogs-that-attacked-8-year-old-girl-near-summerville/article_5da25558-b61f-11e9-8aac-ef1c9cf7ae0b.html) By Gregory Yee [gyee@postandcourier.com](mailto:gyee@postandcourier.com) Aug 3, 2019 Updated Aug 12, 2019 Animal control officers went to the residence earlier on Friday to meet with the owner but left the dogs, the Sheriff's Office said. Later in the day, authorities, "determined the dogs were a danger to the community and delaying quarantining the dogs could put the owners and other residents at risk. "The dogs will be held, "until such time a determination is made on their future," the Sheriff's Office said.
- <https://blog.dogsbite.org/2021/06/2020-dog-bite-fatality-statistics-discussion.html> DogsBite.org recorded 46 fatal dog attacks in 2020. Pit bulls contributed to 72% (33) of these deaths, over 16 times higher than any other dog breed. The last time the CDC collected breed data about dogs involved in fatal human attacks was 1998. Pit bulls have killed over [440 Americans](#) since. **State of South Carolina** In April 2021, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control released state-level dog bite data. This is a rare occurrence that we have only seen in one other state, [Delaware \(2011\)](#). **Data showed that during 2019 there were 7,499 dog bites from known dog breeds.** Of those, one-third, 2,433 bites, were attributed to pit bulls and their mixes, three times more than the next top-biting breed, Labradors, and their mixes with 833 bites.
- [https://journalnow.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/these-dogs-could-have-killed-me-a-winston-salem-woman-faces-civil-violations-after-three/article\\_1e915620-39b7-11ec-9eda-4f7c53a70187.html](https://journalnow.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/these-dogs-could-have-killed-me-a-winston-salem-woman-faces-civil-violations-after-three/article_1e915620-39b7-11ec-9eda-4f7c53a70187.html) Shawonda Denise Wright, 37, has been cited with three counts of permitting an animal to run at large and three counts of possessing a vicious or dangerous animal within the county, according to the citation. November 6, 2021
- <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/2019/04/15/detroit-mail-carrier-speaks-months-after-being-attacked-by-pit-bull-saved-by-neighbor/> A pit bull (was) charging at me full force," Bridges said. He's been a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service for more than two decades, but he's never spoken to a crowd about something that could have ended his career. "I used my whole entire can of dog spray," Bridges said. "It didn't even faze him. "That's when O'Neil Colley ran in to help, fighting off the dog with a garbage can, a club and a hammer, officials said. "I felt like I was fighting for my life, my kids, my granddaughter," Bridges said. "It was not about to kill me." A hammer and a belt was finally enough to end the attack, and Bridges said it took him weeks to feel comfortable at work. **(Please Note \*Contrary to the Facebook post, this is proof they do snap, and their jaws do lock!**

Screens Shots of the Dog Attack Incident Report- The supplemental is not numbered with the initial report. The way it is written changed the narrative. I was not asked to move on, nor did I argue with the dog's owner, and this must be redacted as slander. I was merely exercising my constitutional right to walk my dog on the streets where I pay taxes. The owner knew her gate was broken and admitted her dog had gotten out before. She knows both her dogs are very large, strong dogs who are aggressive. This is irresponsible and puts the public in imminent danger. Implicit racial bias was exhibited when I was the only one asked for an ID, and then the address on the ID wasn't put on the report, and my initial statement completely omitted, requiring me to write the supplemental statement.

Offenses:  
ANIMAL COMPLAINT/ANIMAL AT LARGE

On 10/21/2021 at approximately 1638 I, ASO L. Summers, received a radio transmission from Cayce dispatch regarding a dog attack at Parliament Drive. I arrived on scene at approximately 1703. Upon my arrival I was met near the roadway by the subject who resides across the street at Parliament and the resident of Parliament both of whom advised that Max (an approximately 9 year old Pit Bull) who resides at Parliament had gotten out of the back yard. I noticed an individual sitting in a chair with an ice pack on her left knee with a dog on a leash whom the resident of Parliament stated had fallen along with the resident from Parliament in the roadway with the dogs. I then went to speak with the victim (C. Townsend-Chambers), I inquired if she had been bitten and she stated "No, I hurt my knee when I fell", I asked her if she needed EMS and she stated she did not, though she did not feel she could walk home. I advised her that I would help her get back home, I then asked if she had her ID (so that I could obtain pertinent information for the report) and a phone number. I then asked the victim what had happen in her words. She stated she had recently moved to the neighborhood and enjoyed walking the neighborhood with her dog Roxie (an approximately 22 month old, female, black in color lab mix) and getting to know her neighbors. The victim stated she was walking on Parliament toward Waterloo and had stopped for a moment at the area of Parliament. The victim stated the dog at Parliament was barking at her and her dog. She stated that the resident came out and told her to move on and stop standing there. The victim stated she and the resident argued about her moving on and that the dog from Parliament came out of the fence and came after her dog, the victim stated that the pit bull grabbed the collar of the victim's dog and would not let go as the victim tried to get away with her dog. She stated she and the subject both fell in the roadway trying to pull the dogs apart. She stated a man from the corner house then came out and grabbed Max by the collar and helped place him in the house of Parliament. The victim stated she thought her dog

AGENCY I.D.  
SC0320200

CAYCE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
INCIDENT REPORT

CASE NUMBER		NCIC	
21	-	INO	ENTO

had been bitten but after looking realized it was the red collar and not blood that she saw on her dog.

I then spoke with the subject from Parliament who advised that she had been working in the yard and had closed the double gate (but due to age of the fence it does not close tightly) but had not completely secured it as she was going to be opening the gate again. She stated the dogs were inside the residence but that the doggie door (which allows access to the back yard) was not closed. The subject stated she heard a commotion with dogs barking and went out to see what was going on, she observed the complainant standing at the corner of her and her neighbors yard and the dog was using the bathroom, the subject stated the complainant did clean up behind her dog and that when she (subject) went outside to ask her (victim) to move on from the yards to get out of her (subject) dog's sight so that he would stop barking. She stated that the complainant would not move on and argued with her that she did not have to move on. The subject stated she kept turning around to tell Max to be quiet and asking the lady to move on so her dog would stop barking. The subject stated Max pushed open the double gate at the bottom and ran to the complainant and her dog and grabbed the complainant's dog by the collar and would not let loose. The subject tried to grab Max but was unable to get him to let go, she stated her neighbor from Parliament came out and grabbed Max by the collar and he released from the other dog and Max was placed inside of the subject's residence.

After speaking with victim, subject and witnesses I then gave the victim and her dog a ride to her residence and advised her that I was not working on Friday but that I would follow up with her on Monday.

A Citation will be issued to the subject for Animal at Large.

## INCIDENT REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL

Page #: 1

Case Number: 21-

Officer: 76 , DUFAULT, P

Date Entered/Changed: 10/27/2021

Reviewer:

Review Date:

DETAILED STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION: The victim (C. Townsend-Chambers), provided a statement: At around 4:30 pm, while walking my dog through the neighborhood, my dog Roxie stopped on the roadway near the driveway of Parliament, residence to relieve herself. I stooped down to pick it up and noticed the resident putting things in her car and commented to her "You have beautiful dogs". She replied, "Thank you- somebody just left them here in the neighborhood". I asked did she check to see if they had chips for location and she said, she did take them to check but they did not have chips. About this time, she was standing back by the gate, and the pit bull began to bark excitedly, and she instructed it- "Stay- don't come out that gate", by the time the words were out of her mouth he forced through the gate at the bottom and charged towards Roxie and I and shouted "Get your dog". There was nowhere to go as I tried backing up, as I knew not to turn my back on a charging dog, but then Max rammed into us and grabbed Roxie by what I initially thought was her throat as she was squealing and crying then realized he had her collar. About this time the neighbor from Parliament, ran out and said what can she do, and appeared to begin videotaping the incident, as I was knocked down on my knees and came out of my shoes during the struggle and ended up face to face with the dogs, another male neighbor came out and we were all trying to get the Pitbull to let my dog go. The owner kept saying "Hit him in the nose", which I was pounding on his head with my fist, trying to pry open his mouth, and he would not release my dog. Finally, the male neighbor came around and grabbed her dogs collar twisting it, and got him to release, I guess by cutting off his airway. We are all trying to get him to let her go, and for a split second I thought Roxie was bleeding but realized it was her red day camp collar. Both people are witness to the happenings afterwards, when Max's owner told me I should go on home and "go back to my neighborhood", to which I replied, "this is my neighborhood", and "I should be able to walk wherever I like." I further said my knee was hurting, and they could see me limping, and I was offered a chair, stool to prop up my leg, and ice pack by Parliament and her husband and they gave Roxie and I some water. This conversation only happened AFTER the pitbull attacked us. When Parliament called 911 she said there were dogs fighting, and I corrected her and said "No, there was a dog attacking", I then called 911 back and they asked was it about the dog attack, so please pull the dispatch records for accuracy. Parliament began saying she told me when the dogs was barking to move on, but that is simply not true because we had been talking for a few minutes, which is how I knew that she had found the dogs and taken them in (the pit bull and another black dog which looks like a Rottweiler) and kept them. I called my brother in Charlotte and sent him the pictures, video and audio recording immediately after the incident.



Good evening, Madame Mayor, City Council, and everyone in attendance. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns. I am Dr. Colette Townsend-Chambers and let me start by saying that the views and opinions expressed are my own, and do not reflect those of my employer. I was at council on December 7<sup>th</sup> to recount my story and since all the statement was not added to the minutes prior, I have been given the opportunity to come and share again. I am requesting that my statement be submitted to the permanent meeting minutes. I did forward a color handout with pictures of the dogs involved, a Facebook post of another Cayce resident who had been attacked by a pitbull, and the letter from [redacted] : about his dog attack in Cayce, but because of confidentiality concerns Ms. Corder cannot share them on the virtual screen but has emailed them to all council members. *It has been 3 months* since my dog Roxie, and I were viciously attacked while walking in my neighborhood of Churchill Heights. To be exact October 21, 2021. My dog stopped to relieve herself on the [redacted] Block of Parliament, I began talking to the homeowner [redacted], when her dog a large pitbull pushed past her through her closed gate and charged me and my dog, unprovoked, grabbing Roxie by the throat and knocking me down to the concrete. My knee and hands were swollen and blooded after the incident. I have since discovered on MRI, I have a torn meniscus in my knee and require surgery because of this attack. I ended up eyeball to eyeball with this dog and I am fortunate he did not bite me in the face. While I know the city cannot do anything about the racist statement the dog's owner made by telling me to "go back to my neighborhood", they can address the implicit bias that I experienced from the animal control officer when she arrived on the scene. ***What concerned me the most was that the bias exhibited by the officer made me feel unsafe.*** I immediately became concerned for my safety when I realized I was the only person of color surrounded by 4 or 5 non-colored people who were clearly beginning to change the narrative, starting with the 911 call. First, they didn't want to call 911 but when the neighbor finally did, she said some dogs were fighting when in fact she saw us get attacked by [redacted] dog Max. If time permitted, I could play the audio tape, where you can hear me say to the dispatcher -NO we were attacked!

When the officer showed up, she asked for my ID, even though I told her my address and phone number. Just like that - I was profiled and went from being the victim to being treated like a perpetrator and I was the one who requested 911 be called. She further seemed to insinuate that it was somehow my fault that I was attacked- because I got in the dog's line of sight. So, I acquiesced and gave her my ID because I didn't want to become another statistic or hash tag. There was no body cam, so it is not farfetched to believe that things could have quickly gotten out of hand. ***Guns are being mistaken for tasers all too often now days.*** Newsweek reported there have been 229 deaths of black Americans after interactions with police, since the murder of George Floyd. ***Councilman Sox and I have tried unsuccessfully*** to get some answers from the city administration and the police department as to why I was the only person asked to present an ID - being the only person of color on the scene, and why the owner was only given a citation for "animal at large" and not also a citation for a "dangerous animal" in section 8.1 as per city ordinance. I would like to know if this dog has gotten out before and attacked others, as this is now a pattern, and the owner must not be shown favoritism, possibly because of a pro pit bull biases. ***I am not saying anyone is a bad person because we all have biases but when we work for and in the public, those biases, and beliefs we hold about people can affect how we treat the taxpaying citizen and could cost them their life.*** It is said that the department and city want the public to trust them and work with them, but there must be full transparency for that to happen. Was the dog owner a friend of the officer and therefore was not given the citation? Biases held by public servants can endanger the lives of our citizens. ***I again recommend that implicit biases training be given to all officers asap, and all bodycams are required and activated for these dog attack calls. I suggested in December that an ad hoc committee of diverse constituents to assist City Attorney Danny Crowe in investigating for racial bias and discrimination among all city departments.*** Since his investigation is now over on Mr. Hudson, our attention should turn to the public safety department training so that all citizens can feel served and protected. There may be some more hidden figures with racist and discriminatory views working in and for the City of Cayce, and they should be uprooted as well. I think we should have a discussion on these biases and how we can change them. Thank you for your time.

February 1, 2022, Cayce City Council Presentation & Statement submitted for recorded minutes. Attached is a copy of [redacted] letter. His original letter and envelope was submitted to Ms. Corder on December 7th, 2021 at the City Council Meeting when I initially spoke.

To Whom it may concern ,

A couple years ago I  
was taking a health walk in  
the neighborhood I live in. I was  
approached by a aggressive pit bull  
that was wanting to attack me,  
The man came out his house and  
called his dog off. My wife tried  
to run from it, I stood and faced  
him as dogs tend to attack if  
you run from them. It was very  
stressful situation, I told several  
neighbors that walk to be careful  
on this street. The dog

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WAS CALLED OFF BY THE GUY  
THAT CAME TO THE DOOR. I DO NOT  
KNOW THOSE NEIGHBORS OR WHY THAT  
DOG WAS IN THE STREET THAT AFTERNOON.  
I DID TELL THE OWNER THAT IF HIS  
DOG CAME AT ME AGAIN I WOULD SEE  
ABOUT IT WITH THE LAW. THAT IS THE  
ONLY DOG I KNOW OF IN THIS NEIGHBOR  
HOOD LIKE THAT AGGRESSIVE. I THINK  
HE MAY BE TRAINED TO ATTACK AS THE  
GUY WAS ABLE TO COMMAND & STOP  
MY WIFE AND I BOTH WERE THREATENED  
BY THIS PIT BULL AND IT WAS AN UNPLEASANT



3

EXPERIENCE, IF THERE ARE  
ANY QUESTION WE CAN BE REACHED  
AT 803.

Due to covid my wife and I  
will not be at the council meeting  
Hope this helps you get  
the relief u seek

Dec. 6, 2021

STAFFORD RD.  
RAYCE S.C.