



Zach Klein

CITY ATTORNEY

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE • COLUMBUS OHIO

INFORMATION ON THE PROBLEM OF EXCESSIVE DOG BARKING

The problem of excessive dog barking has been a long unaddressed issue. The Prosecutor Division at the Columbus City Attorney's Office, under the leadership of City Attorney Zach Klein, is committed to addressing this quality of life issue.

The first action to take when dealing with a barking dog problem is to contact the Prosecution Resources Unit's Lead Legal Intake Counselor, Dayla Murphy at (614) 645-5807 or dammurphy@columbus.gov.

Excessive dog barking solutions may include the following:

1. A noisy animal warning letter can be mailed to the address where the dog in question resides. We do not disclose the identity of the person who has called our office to complain about the noisy animal. A vast majority of barking dog issues are resolved at this step.
2. Mediation can be scheduled in our office to allow the parties to discuss the matter. Our Mediation Program has a long history of successfully handling this type of neighborhood problem. Currently, our Mediation Program is on hold due to the pandemic.
3. If the problem persists despite a warning letter and mediation, prosecution exists as a final option. Noisy Animals is a minor misdemeanor under the Columbus City Code and a violation is punishable with a fine of up to \$150. To prosecute this offense, our office requires the following types of evidence:
 - a. The barking must happen within the city limits of Columbus. You must also provide the dog owner's name.
 - b. To prosecute a case, you must provide exact dates and times the barking has taken place. Simply stating "the dog barks everyday" is NOT sufficient evidence to file a criminal charge. The evidence you submit should also include one or two other households in the area that will confirm the dates and times the barking occurred. Video and/or audio tape recordings of the barking are also very helpful. Generally, 20 minutes or more of audio demonstrating continuous barking is needed to create a strong case.

Please note: Dogs will bark. Unless the barking is excessive, it is NOT considered criminal. Be advised that in order to pursue a criminal charge (as explained in #3 above), you will need to file a complaint through the Intake Division at the Columbus City Attorney's Office, 375 South High Street, 7th Floor. If charges are approved, you may be required to appear in court several times.

Civil Division
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7385
Fax 614-645-6949

Claims Division
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7385
Fax 614-724-6503

Prosecution Division
375 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7483
Fax 614-645-8902

Real Estate Division
77 N. Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-7712
Fax 614-645-3913

Police Legal Advisor
120 Marconi Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43215
614-645-4530
Fax 614-645-4551