



OCT 17 2014

*Creating Safe, Healthy and Happy Lifestyles for our Pets!*

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October 16, 2014

Dear Members of the City Council,

My name is April Begosh. I am a former resident of Concord and have owned and operated a business in the city since 1995. I am writing to you today about a matter concerning a new business service that I would like to bring to the city.

I am looking to open a dog daycare. In attempting to find a location that is both approved by the city and commuter accessible, I have run into some challenges as related to the zoning ordinance. The current ordinance classifies a dog daycare as a commercial kennel. The current Table of Uses limits the location of a commercial kennel to only three zones in two zoning districts. This greatly restricts the ability to locate a dog daycare in areas of the city that are easily accessed by commuters and city residents.

While commercial kennels and dog daycares both provide care for dogs, they do so in very different ways. A dog daycare is a service that exists for and is used by people that work or are away from their homes during the day. In a dog daycare, dogs are dropped off in the morning and picked up in the evening. Service hours are generally between 7:00am and 6:00pm. There is no overnight boarding of dogs. Dogs in a daycare are constantly monitored and supervised by the daycare staff and are never left unattended in outdoor dog yards.

The above description more closely resembles a dog grooming salon than it does a commercial kennel. Currently dog grooming salons are classified as a personal and business service. Grooming salons are fully permitted in 8 zones within the city and by special exception or conditional use in two other zones.

I am requesting that the classification of a dog daycare be reviewed taking into consideration the points that I made above that distinguish the differences between a dog daycare and a commercial kennel. It is my feeling that a dog daycare should have a classification of its own and that the zones in which a dog daycare are permitted should more closely consider the

convenience of dog owners that would be taking advantage of the service. There are currently 5,249 dogs registered in the city of Concord. A dog daycare is a needed and requested service within the city. Re-classifying dog daycares in a way that would permit them in more zones within the city would make it possible to provide such a service to the residents of Concord.

I thank you, in advance, for considering my request. I am available to answer any further questions.

Sincerely,  
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