



CAROLINE COUNTY  
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CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

Mary Berneski, Paralegal  
Kim Raeder, Administrator  
411 Franklin Street  
Denton, Maryland 21629

Animal Welfare and Control Hearing Board  
Caroline County Health and Public Service Building  
403 S 7<sup>th</sup> St., Room 110  
Denton, MD 21629  
Open Meeting Minutes

An advertised public hearing and meeting of the Animal Welfare and Control Hearing Board was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Board Members  
Director of Animal Control, Jacob Andrew  
Sheriff's Office, Deputy Cody Rzucidlo  
Citizen, Richard Moorer  
Director of Environmental Health, Joshua Parker  
Vet Tech, Lisa Trippett

Staff Members  
MacLeod Law Group, LLC, Attorney at Law - Lance Young  
Law Office Paralegal - Mary Berneski  
PAB/ACC Administrator - Kim Raeder

Caroline County Animal Control Officer, Diana Greenwood  
Officer, Erin Brown

Caroline County Humane Society Director, Karen Culotta

Witness Luke Stottlemeyer

Dog Owner Joshua Riggins

Citizen Sharzia Rittenhouse

Director Andrew called the open meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

1. No public comment
2. Animal Control Officer, Diana Greenwood explained from the incident report the events involving Mr. Riggins's dog, Beezy. Exhibits 1-12 were introduced. Question and answer among the board members and Officer Greenwood commenced.
3. Witness, Luke Stottlemeyer, spoke about the incident at his residence on April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Question and answer among the board members and Mr. Stottlemeyer commenced. Mr. Stottlemeyer exited the meeting after his testimony.
4. The owner, Joshua Riggins, pleaded for his dog to return home. Question and answer among the board

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members and Mr. Riggins commenced. Mr. Riggins's girlfriend, Sharzia Rittenhouse, spoke on the dog's demeanor and good-natured spirit.

5. The director of the Caroline County Humane Society, Karen Culotta, informed the board about Beezy's negative behavior at the shelter and possible health problems due to visual assessment.
6. Mr. Riggins was asked questions regarding his permanent residence, financial ability, timeline of events, and ability to handle restrictions imposed by the county if the dog was returned to his custody.
7. After deliberation among the board, a motion was made by Director Andrew to euthanize the dog, Beezy. Seconded by Deputy Rzucidlo. Each board member explained their vote reasoning. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 7:17 pm. Mr. Riggins and Ms. Rittenhouse exited the meeting as board members were voting.
8. Director Andrew adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm.

NOTE: A part, or all, of a meeting may be conducted in closed session. The Committee may start in an open session, pursuant to its Rules of Procedure and in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, Md. Code Ann., General Provisions §3-305, to go into closed session for any enumerated purpose.

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