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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                                                                                                 APPEARANCES
1
                  FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA WESTERN DIVISION
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                                                                              For the Plaintiff:
                                                                              MR. KAMRON T.M. HASAN, ESQ.
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3
      KALI MYERS
                                      Case No. 5:16-cv-04107-LRR
      an individual,
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4
                  Plaintiff.
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(402) 964-5000
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E-mail: kamron.hasan@huschblackwell.com
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                                                                        5
            vs.
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6
      THE CITY OF SIOUX CITY,
      TOWA; ROBERT PADMORE, in his official capacity; and CINDY RARRAT, in her
7
                                                                       7
                                                                              For the Defendants:
                                                                             MR. JUSTIN VONDRAK, ESQ.
MR. CALEB CHRISTOPHERSON, ESQ.
Assistant City Attorneys
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8
                                                                       8
      official capacity,
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                                                                        9
                  Defendants.
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13
                              DEPOSITION OF
                                                                       13
                          CHRISTOPHER J. WALL
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                                                                       19
      DATE:
                               Wednesday, January 17, 2018
                               Sioux City City Hall
Legal Division, Suite 511
405 Douglas Street
Sioux City, Iowa
(712) 279-6318
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      LOCATION:
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      TIME COMMENCED:
                               11:49 a.m.
24
      TIME CONCLUDED:
                               12:39 p.m.
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                                INDEX
                                                                                               STIPULATIONS
2
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                                                                                      It is stipulated and agreed by and between the
            Appearances.....
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3
            Stipulations.....
                                                                              parties hereto:
4
                                                                        4
                                                                                      1. That the deposition of CHRISTOPHER J. WALL
            Reporter's Certificate..... 51
                                                                        5
                                                                              may be taken before Julie A. Pell, Registered
5
            Amendment to Deposition Page..... 52
6
                                                                        6
                                                                              Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter,
7
                                                                       7
                                                                              Certified Shorthand Reporter, Certified Realtime
      WITNESS:
8
                                                                       8
                                                                              Captioner, General Notary Public, at the time and
          CHRISTOPHER J. WALL
9
            Direct Examination by Mr. Hasan.... 5
                                                                              place set forth on the title page hereof.
10
                                                                       10
                                                                                      2. That the deposition is taken pursuant to
                                                                              notice.
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                                                                       11
                                                                       12
                                                                                      3. That the original deposition will be
12
                                                                              delivered to Mr. Kamron Hasan, attorney for the
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                                                                       13
                                                                              Plaintiff.
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                                                                                      4. That all objections except as to form and
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                                                                       15
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                                                                              foundation are reserved until time of trial.
16
                                                                                      5. That the required elements of Federal
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                                                                       17
                                                                              Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 30(b)(5)(A) and (C)
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                                                                       18
                                                                              will be set forth within this transcript and,
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                                                                       20
                                                                              therefore, do not need to be stated aloud on the
                                                                       21
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                                                                              record by the court reporter.
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                                                                       22
                                                                                      6. That the testimony of the witness may be
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                                                                              transcribed outside the presence of the witness.
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                                                                                      7. That the signature of the witness to the
24
25
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                                                                              transcribed copy of the deposition is not waived.
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1 CHRISTOPHER J. WALL, administered that oath to you. Of lawful age, being first duly cautioned and solemnly sworn as hereinafter certified, was examined and testified as follows: 2 Okay. Sure. 2 The purpose is to gather information in this 3 3 lawsuit. Which are you aware that this lawsuit is 4 4 (Witness' response to oath - "I do.") going on? 5 5 DIRECT EXAMINATION 6 Sure. 6 A. 7 BY MR. HASAN: 7 It's to gather information to prepare for Q. 8 Q. Will you please state your -- and spell your 8 trial. name for the record? Okay. 9 9 A. My name is Christopher, So do you understand that you are under 10 Q. 10 C-h-r-i-s-t-o-p-h-e-r, John, J-o-h-n, Wall, W-a-l-l. 11 11 oath? 12 Is it all right if I call you Chris during 12 A. this? Because you are under oath, will you answer 13 13 truthfully and fully? Chris. Absolutely. 14 14 Okay. My name is Kamron. Feel free to call 15 Yep. 15 me by my first name, Kamron. We need to do our best, both of us, in 16 16 A. Uh-huh. Sure. giving audible answers. So instead of uh-huh, huh-uh 17 17 Chris, have you ever had your deposition or head nods, do your best to answer yes, no. Is 18 18 Q. that okay? 19 taken? 19 20 A. 20 A. Yeah. Sure. I will kind of go over some of the process. Q. Also need to do our best, and not just for 21 21 It's a conversation. It's going to be questions and our sake but for Julie's sake, to not talk over each 22 22 23 answers. I will ask you questions. You give me 23 other. So I will do my best. I have a tendency to verbal answers. It's all being recorded by Julie 24 interrupt. I will do my best not to, and I will ask 24 here. It's under oath, as you have just -- she just 25 that you do the same. Is that all right? 25 7 8 Okay. phrased, in which case I will try to rephrase, but 1 I probably will ask bad questions that 2 you -- as long as I ask a question, you are under a 2 3 aren't phrased right or maybe you don't understand 3 duty to answer that question unless your attorney fully. I ask you that if you don't fully understand instructs you not to. 4 4 a question, just ask me or mention it, and I will do 5 5 A. Okay. 6 my best to rephrase it -6 Q. I love asking these questions. Is there 7 A. Okay. 7 anything about your physical, emotional or mental -- so that you can answer it. conditions that will not allow you to understand my 8 8 9 Sure. 9 questions today? Q. If you do come across one of those, I ask No. 10 10 A. you to do that. And if you don't ask me, I will Okay. Will you let me know if that changes? 11 11 12 just - I will assume that you understand the 12 A. question. Is that fair? 13 Anything about your physical, emotional or 13 mental conditions that will not allow you to give a A. Yeah. Absolutely. 14 14 Q. If you need a break during this, depending 15 truthful and complete answer? 15 on -- it's 11:50 right now. If any of us get hungry No. 16 16 A. and want to grab some food, yourself included, just Will you let me know if that changes? 17 17 let us know, or if you need a break for anything 18 18 else, just let us know. I may ask you to let me Are you on any medication or alcohol that 19 19 finish a line of questioning first, but if you have a will not allow you to understand the questions? 20 20 21 question, just let me know. Okay? 21 No. A. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Sure. Will you let me know if that changes? 22 22 Q. Your attorneys, who are here in the room, Yeah. 23 23 24 may lodge objections to some of my questions. Some 24 I think I'd be able to see you sneaking a of those may be because the question is poorly 25 drink. Same question for truthful and complete

	9		10
1	answers?	1	A. Cardiff, Wales.
2	A. Sure.	2	Q. All right. I have been over there a couple
3	Q. Okay. Chris, what do you do for a living?	3	of times. My sister was born in Cambridge.
4	A. I work for Hannah, Incorporated, who	4	A. Oh, okay.
5	performs a contract for the City of Sioux City for	5	Q. My parents lived there for a little while.
6	animal control services.	6	Going to the animal realm
7	Q. What's your role with Hannah, Incorporated?	7	A. Uh-huh.
8	<ul> <li>A. My position within the company is company</li> </ul>	8	<ul><li>Q. – animal kingdom, do you have any</li></ul>
9	vice president, company secretary. My physical	9	certifications, anything like that?
10	description is working – mainly working the front	10	A. Not personally, no.
11	desk, dealing with citizens and their animals.	11	<ul> <li>Q. Okay. Have you attended any seminars,</li> </ul>
12	Q. I think is Cindy your wife?	12	conferences related to your job?
13	A. Yes.	13	A. No.
14	<ul><li>Q. Okay. I just wanted to make confirm</li></ul>	14	<ul> <li>Q. Receive any animal-specific training related</li> </ul>
15	that.	15	to your job?
16	A. Yes.	16	A. No.
17	Q. Because she mentioned that you handled more	17	<ul> <li>Q. Attended any organizational meetings,</li> </ul>
18	of the dogs and she handled more of the cats; is that	18	anything like that? I am specifically referring to,
19	accurate?	19	like, the National Animal Control Association.
20	A. Correct. Yeah.	20	A. No.
21	Q. Okay. What's your education history?	21	Q. Or the American Humane Association?
22	<ul> <li>A. Education was in Britain, finished –</li> </ul>	22	A. No.
23	finished high school, went straight into work from	23	Q. Ever go to dog shows?
24	high school.	24	A. Yes.
25	Q. Where in Britain are you from?	25	Q. In what capacity?
1	A. My wife shows – or, used to show our dogs	1	A. Very, very rarely. That's not my area of
2	before they became too old.	2	expertise. I am more of a paper and pen pusher.
3	<ul><li>Q. She mentioned those dogs.</li></ul>	3	Q. Okay.
4	A. Yeah.	4	A. The animal control officers and the – and
5	<ul><li>Q. So German Shepherds?</li><li>A. Yes.</li></ul>	5	the staff do the identifying. That's not something that I have expertise in.
6 7	<ul><li>A. Yes.</li><li>Q. So what exactly are your job functions?</li></ul>	6 7	Q. Are you ever asked to weigh in on what you
8	Basically customer service. I don't get	8	think that an animal's breed may be?
9	involved with any of the animal control side. I am	9	A. Occasionally. But I am usually not the
10	never in the animal control truck. I always deal	10	first choice.
11	with the people who come in to either surrender	11	Q. Okay. But you may be a choice in the
12	animals, to – who bring in found stray animals, or	12	ladder?
13	people who come to reclaim their animals, sale of	13	A. Yeah. Yeah.
14	city licenses, excuse me, taking impound fees, that	14	Q. So what's your history with animals? What's
15	kind of thing.	15	your experience with them?
16	Q. Dealing with the public?	16	A. Basically very little back home. Since I
17	<ul> <li>A. Yes. Absolutely 100 percent.</li> </ul>	17	have been working at the shelter for approximately
18	Q. You mentioned that you're not in the animal	18	six or seven years, and I was visiting here for
19	control truck ever?	19	three-month periods for about three or four years and
20	A. Right. I never personally perform animal	20	prior to getting married – we've been married ten
21	control duties.	21	and a half years – so for about the last 12 or 13
22	Q. Any duties whatsoever?	22	years I have been coming over to America, basically
23	<ul> <li>A. Nothing related to dog catching.</li> <li>Q. How about once they're back at the facility?</li> </ul>	23	hanging out with Cindy before we got married, then
24	Q. How about once they're back at the facility?	1	
25	Do you ever do, like, animal identification or	24 25	started working full time there seven years ago, approximately.

- bulls or pit bull mixes. If she suddenly moved into Sioux City, she couldn't bring them.
- Q. That was my follow-up question. So she 17 doesn't live in... 18
  - A. No.

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- So she's part of the brain trust in 20 21 determining what else goes into determining whether a dog's a pit bull or not? 22
  - A. Right.
  - Q. What else goes into it?
  - A. Oh, the a lot of it is the you know,

- making that call themselves. If there is any doubt, then they'll bring it up for a second opinion.
- o. So is the second opinion only brought in if the animal control officer has a doubt?
- A. A lot of the times they do that anyway. They bring -- they bring it up anyway just for the -so there's confirmation.
- Q. Okay. For that confirmation is there a standard process or a procedure on the group determining if it is one of these dogs?
  - A. Visual.

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dried? 1 Q. But is there a -- it's a -- it's a visual identification; right? A. If somebody is - if somebody is borderline, 2 2 3 A. Right. 3 then Cindy will actually get pulled in to make the Q. Based on visual identification, how does the final -- the final decision. If something is not cut 4 4 group collectively decide? 5 and dried, we tend to err on the side of releasing 5 6 A. Uh... 6 the dog to the owner, you know, if... o. Or, does the group collectively decide 7 7 o. All right. whether the dog fits into definition? A. But Cindy ultimately has the ultimate say. 8 8 A. Yes. Yeah. Yeah. 9 That's if the group as a whole can't make a decision, 9 o. How does it... which is very rare. 10 10 A. Well, pretty much visual. You know, they o. Okay. But she's the ultimate 11 11 decision-maker? 12 know the size and weight that these dogs are. They 12 A. Yeah. know what their physical appearance is. And if 13 13 any - and if looking at the dog, yeah, Q. And I think you said that if the rest of the 14 14 unfortunately, that is a pit bull, it would be banned group says, well, we can't tell whether or not it 15 15 under the pit bull ban. fits into the definition... 16 16 Q. And you're not involved in this process? A. There's enough people there with enough 17 17 A. Very little. experience that they very rarely run into that 18 18 Q. Okay. When you have observed this process, 19 19 situation. you say that the group looks at it, is it like a Q. Okay. How often would you say you actually 20 20 debate amongst members of the group, or how does that go through and do the -- help with id- -- identifying 21 21 work? dogs? 22 22 23 A. A lot of them, it's so cut and dried there's 23 A. Very, very rarely. no debate. It's just, yep, it is. It is what it is. Like as -- if you had to put an estimate on 24 24 o. How about situations where it is not cut and 25 25 your... 19 20 A. Are we talking dogs in general or pit bulls? Q. Do you take -- do you keep the pictures of 1 Q. Let's talk about identifying the breed of a the dogs... 2 2 3 dog that has been impounded. 3 A. No. No. Ultimately, we take the pictures. A. The situation that I might have is if I take We print them out. And as of -- as of late -- it 4 4 pictures for the website and the kennel card or what hasn't been that long that we've actually started 5 5 6 the officer thought it might have been was 6 pinning them to the paperwork for the sign-out for 7 something - something different maybe, then we'll 7 the city forms. So I am sure you found some that get another head together and say, hey, does this have it and some that don't. The pictures are not 8 8 9 look like a Scottie dog or whatever, but basically 9 kept on -- not kept on record. They're printed off that's if there's nothing sort of serious. and pinned to the file. 10 10 Q. Is that for purposes of putting it on the 11 Q. Is there a reason why that's the case? 11 12 website? 12 A. No. It – up until the time that it was 13 A. The dogs go on the website. Yeah. 13 actually suggested to us to print pictures and attach Q. That's what the breed identification is for, them to the file, there was no need for us to take 14 14 though? 15 pictures of them. 15 A. Right. o. Do you know -- do you know if there's any 16 16 Q. You mentioned the pictures. Do you guys training or instruction given to the animal control 17 17 officers as to what kind -- do you know if there's save those? 18 18 any training or instruction given to the animal A. Of all of the dogs we take or just pit 19 19 bulls? control officers on how to identify the breed of a 20 20 21 Q. Either. Either. Both. 21 dog out in the field? No. No. A. Not that I am aware of. The training – 22

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bulls.

A. No.

Q. Let's start with -- let's start with pit

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they do go to the National Animal Control Academy,

but they don't actually go into breed identification

and specifics. So, therefore, they have to do sort

22 1 of reading up on that kind of thing. A. Yeah. Yeah, ultimately. If the dog is not Q. They do continue reading up on it at... 2 under the pit bulls prohibited ordinance, you know, 2 3 A. 3 we might think it's a terrier. The person -- owner Q. Is that required, or is it based on the might tell us it's a Scottish Terrier, whatever. The 4 4 animal control officer's own... 5 dog can go home. There's no problem with going home; 5 6 A. Based on the animal control officer. 6 so we don't sort of push it that far. o. Have you ever been -- strike that. o. Okay. Are there a specific number of people 7 7 If you are asked to determine the breed of a who are on a pit bull enforcement team? 8 8 dog, how do you make that determination? 9 There - there's no such team. 9 A. It -- it's of those things that you know. Okay. 10 10 You know by sight. You know what a Rottweiler looks A. I think that was a name that was -- that was 11 11 12 like, what a Doberman looks like, what a German 12 given. Bas- -- basically, there's no specific Shepherd looks like. number, but people - you know, we have animal 13 13 q. Okay. control officers who have been there for 10 years, 12 14 14 A. You can tell if something comes in that's a years. They know what a pit bull is. 15 15 lab mix. You can tell, oh, that's a lab-collie or 16 And then we've - then we've got, like I 16 that's - you just know. You pick it up. said, Kenna who has her own pit bulls. Jess worked 17 17 Q. Do you ever refer to the printed materials, with pit bull rescues. She's sent pit bulls out to 18 18 breed standards, things like that? rescue organizations. Then there's Cindy with 40 19 19 A. Not for the - not for the - not for the years' experience. So there's no designated team. 20 20 Q. Okay. But all of these individuals, they're dogs. 21 21 Q. Do you know if other members in the making their decisions based on their experience 22 22 23 department refer to the breed standards? 23 based on visual identification of a dog? A. Not for the breeds of dog, no. 24 Correct. Correct. 24 Q. It's based on what they think the dog is? 25 25 Man, this is going to be a lot quicker than 23 24 Cindy's was since you don't do the actual could probably get pretty close and tell you what 1 identification of dogs. 2 mixed breed it was. 2 3 Do you ever personally provide any training 3 Q. How do you make that determination? to the animal control officers? A. Again, just through knowing what a 4 4 A. Not personally. particular breed looks like. So you might say, okay, 5 5 Q. Are you familiar with the American Kennel 6 6 that is part lab or part collie or that just from 7 Club and the United Kennel Club breed standards? 7 actually seeing the dog. A. Yes. Q. Is that based on a collection of traits? 8 8 9 Q. How are you familiar with those? 9 A. It - it's through seeing hundreds and A. They were something that as soon as the ban hundreds of dogs a month coming through. 10 10 came in we were printing copies off of the standards 11 Q. Okay. I am going to go over some physical 11 12 iust so we knew for ourself this is what we're kind 12 traits that I have pulled based on the National 13 of looking for, and we keep on printing off updated 13 Animal Control Association group of characteristics for dogs. copies as needed. 14 14 Q. You said when the ban was enacted. Were you 15 15 A. Uh-huh. affiliated at that time? o. And I will ask you, for each one that I list 16 16 A. In 2009 I was not a - no. That was before off, to tell me if those are specific traits or 17 17 characteristics that you consider when determining my marriage. So, no, I wasn't. 18 18 what kind of - the predominant breed of a Q. Do you know what Hannah, Inc., did in terms 19 19 of enforcing the ban once it was enacted? mixed-breed dog. 20 20 A. No. 21 21 A. Okay. Q. Are you familiar with visual characteristics Q. Is that fair? 22 22

23

24

25

Uh-huh.

Do you look at the color?

A. Occasionally. It's not that important.

dogs?

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24

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and the science related when you have mixed-breed

A. Sure. If something is a mixed breed, I

	25		26
1	Q. How about the pattern of the color?	1	A. Only really applies in – if you're talking
2	A. No.	2	dog show German Shepherds. So it doesn't really –
3	Q. The coat texture?	3	it doesn't really apply in general day to day.
4	A. Occasionally.	4	Q. How about the length of the legs?
5	Q. The coat length?	5	A. Not that important.
6	A. Yeah.	6	Q. Shape of the head?
7	Q. How about the body type?	7	A. Yes.
8	A. Yes.	8	o. Overall size of the head?
9	Q. The body length?	9	A. Yes.
10	A. Yes.	10	Q. Does that include the length and the width?
11	Q. The overall weight?	11	A. Yeah.
12	A. Not nec- – not that – necessarily that	12	o. How about the muzzle?
		13	•
13	important.		A. Yep. That comes into it too.
14	Q. Is that because some dogs are fat and some	14	Q. Eye color?
15	dogs are skinny?	15	A. Not necessarily.
16	A. Because dogs are overweight. Some dogs are	16	Q. Ear shape?
17	fat. Absolutely.	17	A. Yeah.
18	Q. That makes sense. How about the muscle	18	Q. Ear size?
19	mass?	19	A. Not that important.
20	A. Yes.	20	Q. How about the neck?
21	Q. The chest size?	21	A. Yeah.
22	A. Yes.	22	Q. Do you ever look at teeth or jaws?
23	<ul> <li>Q. I believe this term is referred to as</li> </ul>	23	<ul> <li>A. Not personally.</li> </ul>
24	topline angle, the angle from where the shoulders are	24	Q. Tongue color?
25	down to the hips?	25	A. Sorry.
	27		28
1 2	<ul><li>Q. Tongue color?</li><li>A. Tongue color? Yeah. That can be. If you</li></ul>	1 2	bulls you're talking, you know, muscle mass. And it's – it's the head absolutely every time.
3	have got a Chow, you have got a black tongue. Yes.	3	Q. Okay.
4	Q. Tail shape?	4	A. That's that will do it. The head,
5	A. Not really.	5	muzzle, and the ears do vary in length a bit, but
6	Q. How about the tail type or size?	6	it's the actual build of the chest.
7	A. No.	7	Q. So are there key indicators for the pit bull
	B 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		breeds? You mentioned the head and the chest. Is
8	Q. Do you look at the gait, now it's walking around?	8	there anything else you can think of?
9	••		A. That – the head, chest, body mass and
10		10	overall kind of height. That would be it.
11		11	
12	it's walking around, I know the answer to this next	12	Q. Are any of those outcome determinative,
13	question. How about the agility of the dog?	13	meaning that if the head is a certain way that's a
14	A. No.	14	pit bull?
15	Q. The behavior?	15	A. The head will go a long way towards the     appearance and characteristics.
16	A. No. It because that's not necessarily a	16	appearance and characteristics.
17	characteristic of the breed.	17	Q. Okay. Anything else?
		18	A. Again, body size and structure.
18	<ul><li>Q. Do you guys ever check DNA?</li></ul>		
18 19	A. No.	19	Q. Okay. But is the head the most important
18 19 20	<ul><li>A. No.</li><li>Q. So I just listed off a bunch of different</li></ul>	20	thing?
18 19 20 21	<ul> <li>A. No.</li> <li>Q. So I just listed off a bunch of different</li> <li>characteristics. For what's predominant, how do you</li> </ul>	20 21	thing?  A. Equally important to the body size and
18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>A. No.</li> <li>Q. So I just listed off a bunch of different characteristics. For what's predominant, how do you weigh these different characteristics to determine</li> </ul>	20 21 22	thing?  A. Equally important to the body size and structure.
18 19 20 21 22 23	A. No. Q. So I just listed off a bunch of different characteristics. For what's predominant, how do you weigh these different characteristics to determine what the predominant breed is?	20 21 22 23	thing?  A. Equally important to the body size and structure.  Q. Okay. Any specific parts of the body size
18 19 20 21 22	<ul> <li>A. No.</li> <li>Q. So I just listed off a bunch of different characteristics. For what's predominant, how do you weigh these different characteristics to determine</li> </ul>	20 21 22	thing?  A. Equally important to the body size and structure.

A. Typically the – you know, it's going to have the broad chest. That would be – pretty much at that point, I think if you have got the head and the broad chest, then you have – then you have reached the appearance side of it.

- Q. Okay. So those two things, the...
- A. Those things, obviously, are the most important, I would say.
- Q. All right. And when determining whether this dog we're describing, this hypothetical dog, fits under the pit bull ban, is there just looking you have got the head and the chest, so it fits under the definition?
- A. You have got to go by appearance and characteristics.
- Q. Are you familiar with the science behind dog identification based on visual appearance?
  - A. No.

- Q. Essentially what I am asking you is if you're aware of any of the science behind the idea of an individual's ability to look at physical characteristics of a mixed dog and accurately tell what the predominant breed of that dog is. Are you aware of any of that science?
  - A. No.

Q. So I think this is kind of where a little bit more of your background is going to come in. If a determination, whether it be the determination by the animal control officer out in the field or the revisited determination by the group back at the facility, the determination has been made that a subject dog is a pit bull, what happens after that?

A. Once that – a lot of the times the majority of the pit bulls that we have never have any identification, and very few people actually call looking for them because they kind of know that that was a pit bull and it was in the city and it shouldn't be.

If an owner does come forward, then they have ten days to remove the dog from the city. They have one of the sign-up forms that we – that we have in the file. And then at that point they come to the shelter with somebody living outside of the city.

I get identifications from both of them.
The dog is signed out of the city. It's microchipped at that point. And, as I said, as of late we have been taking photographs of them as well. I plead to the people, please don't bring it back into the city because that puts us in a real jam if you do.

And in the majority of the cases that's

fine. They remove the dog, pay the impound fees if those have occurred, and the dog leaves the city.

- Q. What happens if the owner disputes that it is a pit bull?
- A. I have not yet seen somebody seriously dispute it as a pit bull.
  - Q. When you say "seriously"...
- A. Well, I have not seen anybody who has put up an argument that their dog was not a pit bull. I am not aware of one.
- Q. Do you ever tell the owners when they come in that they can appeal the decision?
  - A. No.
- Q. Do they have the right to appeal that decision?
  - A. I believe so.
- Q. Are there ever any circumstances where an individual has a dog where the determination has been made that it's a pit bull or predominantly a pit bull under the code and you still let the dog go home with that person?
  - A. If they live in Sioux City?
- o. Yes.
  - A. There was only one situation that I was ever aware of.

Q. What was that?

- A. And that was Jennifer Frost, who was the initial litigant in this case.
  - Q. Uh-huh.
- A. She wanted to take a dog back home because she was sending the dog back to – I believe it was New York. Jake. And a special exception was made for her.
  - q. Okay. But only her?
  - A. That's the only one I know of, yeah.
- Q. So that there have never been any other examples where a dog has been picked up and determined to be a pit bull and allowed to go back home?
  - A. No. No.
- Q. In your opinion are certain breeds more aggressive than others?
- a. I don't have a view on that. I really don't. I was just going to say, I just just I really don't.
  - Q. One way or the other?
- a. No.
- Q. In your opinion are certain breeds more dangerous than others?
  - A. Yes.

q. What breeds?

A. We get dogs – obviously, if you get bit by a pit bull or a Rottweiler, the damage to you is going to be worse than if you were bitten by a Yorkie or a Chihuahua.

Q. So the bigger the dog...

A. Typically the bigger – bigger and stronger the dog. You know, we never had many cases of pit bulls nipping people. When they were bites, they were proper bites.

q. Proper bites.

## A. Worthwhile bites.

 $\ {\rm Q.}\ \ {\rm No, I}$  got ya.  $\ {\rm I}$  got ya.  $\ {\rm I}$  am on the same page. I understand.

In your experience are physical features, characteristics that a dog outwardly displays, are they predictive of the dog's behavior?

### A. I wouldn't know. I don't know.

Q. So in your experience with your current position, is it your opinion that a certain look of dog tracks with that a certain behavior, like an aggressive behavior?

A. We've seen aggression in a lot of dogs. So I don't specifically have an answer for that.

Q. So different types of dogs can be

aggressive, different breeds?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you involved with the enforcement actions against Kali Myers, the remaining plaintiff in this case?

 A. I wasn't involved with the picking up of the dog, but I was involved with the paperwork and signing out of the city to her boyfriend in Le Mars, I think it was.

Q. Was there anything in that enforcement mechanism that was different than what you were talking about earlier about process that goes into picking up a dog and then discharging it?

A. Nope.

Q. Have you talked to any city council members, members of the city about the pit bull ban?

a. No

Q. Talked to Cindy about the pit bull ban?

A. We probably have over the last ten years, but that...

Q. It's a long time. I am not going to ask you about specific conversations going that far back.

A. Yeah. Yeah.

Q. How about the efficacy of the ban? First off, what do you think the ban is meant to do?

A. I am not sure entirely of the reasons for bringing it in. I think what happened was there were a disproportionate number of bites would have occurred by pit bulls or pit-bull-type dogs. That was – I may be wrong, but that was – that was my – that's my thinking.

Q. Okay. Is it your belief that – strike that.

Earlier you said that it's the stronger dogs that are more dangerous breeds, things like Rottweilers. You mentioned, I think, Rottweilers, pit bulls.

A. Not necessarily. Not necessarily in themselves, but if you get bit by a Rottweiler, you're going to know it, as opposed to getting bit by a Chihuahua. I am not – I am not for one minute saying all big dog – all big dogs are dangerous.

Q. So – okay. Your experience specifically, is there a reason to enforce a ban against a strong dog like a pit bull as opposed to a strong dog like a Rottweiler?

A. I have no view on it.

o. No view in terms of...

 A. I have no view whether it's a good idea or a bad idea. q. In your experience has it been effective?

 $\,$  A.  $\,$  The number of pit bull bites has certainly reduced.

Q. Sure, because there's less pit bulls, but have the overall number of bites reduced?

a. That -1-1 don't have the actual numbers. It would be the health department that has the numbers for that.

Q. So we should go to the health department?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Okay. I am going to show you – you said that occasionally you're brought in to chime in on identification of...

A. Not from a photograph, no.

Q. Not from a photograph?

A. No.

Q. I will not show you pictures then.
You mentioned earlier that you're not up to speed on the science that's associated with the visual identification –

A. Uh-huh.

Q. – of a predominant breed just based on physical characteristics, so I am not going to hold you to the specifics of certain studies, but I want you to assume what I am about to tell you is true –

A. Okay.

Q. — in terms of the current state of the science, that if an individual with decades of experience and training on visually identifying dogs is incorrect 60 percent of the time in determining the predominant breed of a dog, would that change your opinion on how you determine a dog's breed when it's picked up?

A. No.

q. No. So even...

A. Because it's still – visual is your primary – your primary indicator.

Q. How about if the DNA showed that the dog is 10 percent a certain breed? Let's use – since we're talking about pit bulls, let's use pit bulls. So the dog is 10 percent American Staffordshire Terrier –

A. Uh-huh.

q. - and 90 percent American Bulldog. If that dog comes into the facility and...

 A. If it has the appearance and characteristics of a pit bull, then it's taken under the pit bull ban. Its DNA is not accepted in – for any forms of identification.

Q. So even if the DNA said, nope, it's 90 percent a non-banned breed, it is still going to be

enforced?

A. The – I believe there are also studies that have said that DNA are totally unreliable.

Q. Okay. So the visual appearance is going to trump the DNA test?

A. Absolutely. Well, the DNA test doesn't even come into it. It's not -- it's not something that's accepted.

Q. So if an owner were to present a DNA test to you, you wouldn't consider that?

A. Not at present, no.

Q. Okay. What factors would an owner be able to show you to show, hey, this dog actually isn't a pit bull, it's a mixed breed that turns out is a bulldog?

A. We would – we would ask for any prior history that they – that they have with it, but normally there's not a – it's not a whole great bunch. You know, if – now, if they adopted this dog from a registered breeder who has the parents' paperwork –

q. Okay.

A. – and this dog was an offspring of those parents, then, okay, that would be – that would be acceptable, but normally it's very little else

because vet paperwork is also unreliable, what the veterinarian puts down on their paperwork.

Q. So, essentially, if the animal control department makes the determination that this dog looks like a pit bull, that's the final determination?

A. No, it's not the final. They have the right of appeal.

 $\ensuremath{\text{Q}}.$  So up to the point of that appeal, unless the – back up.

From the time the dog is picked up up until the point of appeal, the only thing that will change animal control's mind as to the determination that a dog's a pit bull is proof showing the dog's parentage?

A. That would go a long way towards it, but it – there's very little else.

Q. Okay. So unless an owner is able to come forward with, hey, I bought this dog and it was a mixed breed between a boxer and an American Bulldog, unless that owner has that paperwork...

A. Right. If that dog matches the breed standards that we have, then it is what it is. Yeah.

Q. If the physical characteristics...

A. Right.

Q. Okay. Do you know in the appeal process how it plays out?

A. I believe they set up a hearing with the city manager, and he takes – makes the ultimate call from there.

Q. Have you ever been involved with any of those?

A. Not personally. I am not sure of – I am honestly not sure if anybody has appealed to the city manager on a case.

q. Okay.

a. But I have not personally been involved in one.

Q. In such a circumstance is it the city manager who has the final say of, yes, it is a pit bull, no, it's not a pit bull?

A. I don't know for sure.

Q. So going back to the point of appeal, since you haven't been involved with the appeals before, does it come down to the subjective discretion of the animal control officers based on their visual identification that's what decides, yes, the dog gets to stay because it has – does not fit the definition under the code or, no. it has to go?

A. I think primarily that that's accurate.

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right?

person who's answering the phone have a say in determining whether the dog is deemed a pit bull or

o. Who fills out all the paperwork for dogs

A. When a – when a dog is impounded, the

animal control officer fills out the impound card in

Occasionally they may come up to me and say, I am

C23, can you follow up with a card. But 99 percent

Q. Okay. I have looked through some of the

enforcement records. And I asked Cindy about this

also, and I think I understand it, but I just want to

confirm. I notice a lot of the impound cards will

rushing to another call, I have just put a dog in

99 percent of - 99 percent of the time.

Q. I have looked through...

A. - it's the officers.

A. Right.

that are brought in?

of the time --

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A. Typically the only person who answers the phone other than myself is either Kenna or Jess, and they are both two people who would sort of form the unofficial group, if you like, of brainstorming to get the dog's identification figured out.

and if there are, are there -- what are the instructions -- that are given to animal control officers to go out and enforce the pit bull ban?

A. There are no specific instructions. If during the normal day-to-day duties they come across one or one gets reported, it's just another call. We're not on a hit list to go and get pit bulls or anything like that.

that.

#### A. No. No. we don't.

MR. HASAN: Do you guys want to take a couple minutes? I think I am about done. Do you want to take a couple-minute break? MR. VONDRAK: Sure.

write out the - write out the card, the initial impound card. Then if somebody calls and says, I am missing a dog and I think you just picked it up, at that point the office staff would take the owner's name and address, phone number and that kind of stuff, so that could be a different. And then occasionally we write down the side of the card what the impound fees and microchip are, which may be another office person that does that.

o. Okay. Okay. So it's just different administrative hands touching the same document?

# A. Yeah. Right. Right.

Q. Do the people who are taking down that information have a say in the determination of whether the dog is a pit bull or not? Say the person answering the phone from the distressed owner saying, hey, I am missing my dog, where's my dog, does that

Q. (By Mr. Hasan) Back on the record. Chris,

we talked about the initial determination of a dog

being classified as one of the prohibited pit bulls

at the facility about whether that dog actually is.

challenge as to that initial officer's decision, like

if there's a question about whether that initial officer's determination was correct or not. Is that

think you said earlier that that's if there's a

A. Correct.

No.

A.

being made by the animal control officer out in the

field and that sometimes there is a discussion back

Q. I think -- correct me if I am wrong, but I

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(A recess was taken from 12:29 p.m. to 12:33 p.m.)

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Q. Do you know if there's any instructions --

Q. I don't think you guys would have time to do

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No. The - an officer will impound the dog, fill out the impound card. They will typically write 19 pit bull on it and bring it up to us and say, hey, 20 21 are we all on the same page that this is a - this is a pit bull? So it's not if anybody questions their 22 23 description of the dog.

How does that work?

o. So is it every time that a dog is written down on the impound card, pit bull, that it goes for

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45 further determination? 1 bulls, seven ten. A. Unless a dog has been here previously at the Q. More broadly than that, just Chapter 7? 2 2 A. Okay. I - not off the top of my head. shelter and all of the paperwork and already --3 3 already says it is a pit bull, then it can go back in 4 obviously, but, yeah. 4 the cage and that is the same dog because the 5 Q. The reason I am asking, there's a 5 6 microchip numbers match up. 6 definitions statute where it lists different o. So unless there is preexisting paperwork, definitions of different things. 7 7 there's a group decision as to whether... A. Okay. Okay. Sure. 8 8 A. The dog is always brought for a second 9 Q. Would you agree with me on that? 9 opinion from somebody. Yeah. Sure. 10 10 o. That second opinion, is that always a group o. Would you agree with me that the city - and 11 11 I am happy to pass them over to you if you'd like to 12 second opinion or is it... 12 A. We're - we're normally in the same look - the city defines what a dangerous animal is? 13 13 workspace together. So it - it's not intentionally A. I would - I would need to look at the city 14 14 that way. That's just the way it is. ordinances to know that. 15 15 Q. How often are there disagreements? 16 16 Q. I will pass you that. This -- I will A. Very, very rarely. represent to you that this is a copy and paste job 17 17 Q. What happens if there is a disagreement? off of the city's website. And I know you don't have 18 18 A. If there is a disagreement, then, your glasses. 19 19 ultimately, the poundmaster would have the ultimate A. Sure. Yeah. 20 20 say, but I cannot recall a time when there ever has Q. But I have passed you three pieces of paper 21 21 been. there. On each one is a different definition, and I 22 22 23 Q. Are you familiar with the animal section of 23 will represent to you that that's a copy/paste job, the municipal code of Sioux City? so if there's been any changes the city has done on 24 24 A. Uh-huh. Seven ten. Yeah. Or for the pit 25 their website that it may not be reflected there. 25 47 48 But would you agree with me that if this is A. Right. The pictures - the pictures are 1 what I am describing to you, the city has defined 2 printed, and they're attached to the sign-out of the 2 3 dangerous animal? 3 city form. And I honestly don't feel there's a A. Okay. Yes. lot - much point to keeping them on the camera card 4 4 Q. Same question. Would you agree with me that once that has been achieved. 5 5 the city has defined a high-risk animal? Q. And they're not saved on a hard drive 6 6 7 A. Yes. 7 anywhere? Q. Would you agree with me that the city has A. No. No. 8 8 defined what a vicious animal is? Q. When did you say that the policy changed to 9 9 A. Yes. start taking pictures? 10 10 Q. Did you do anything to prepare for this A. That was - that was something that we 11 11 12 deposition today? 12 brought in - you know, occasionally now one or two 13 A. No. 13 sort of slip through the net, but we try and get the Did you review any documents, anything like pictures as free -- you know, as regularly as we can. Q. 14 14 15 that? 15 And I know a year or -- a year or so ago maybe, A. No. I pulled out Kali Myers' file to somewhere around there. The microchip is the main 16 16 refresh myself. Like I said, we see hundreds of identification that we use. 17 17 hundreds of people a month. Q. And just I can't remember if you talked 18 18 Q. Did you speak to anyone to prepare, other about this, but why was it that about a year ago that 19 19

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you started taking the pictures?

A. I think it – I think it was good that –

just to have a - the second backup. People started

taking them to the vet and getting the microchip cut

talking about removing the dogs' microchips and

out. Yeah, we see it. So it was just like a backup

guys have talked.

they're not stored.

A. No. No.

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than your attorneys? I don't want to know if you

Q. I just want to make sure. You said earlier

that photographs are now regularly being taken, but

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