

Pit bull ban in Grosse Pointe Shores

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PHOTO | Nour Zaki



ONE BREED | The pit bull ban has left citizens questioning the discrimination against pit bulls, including math teacher Erica Thacker. “Why choose one specific breed, and if that’s the case do you have evidence or data that supports that this particular breed shouldn’t be allowed in the community versus another type of breed,” Thacker said.

Following several recent dog attacks, the Grosse Pointe Shores City Council met on Sep. 19 and voted 4-3 to ban pit bulls and pit bull mixes in Grosse Pointe Shores. Then, on Oct. 10, the City Council narrowly voted to repeal the ban. This prompted the pending legislation in Lansing to prohibit any county in the state from enacting any breed-specific bans. If the pit bull ban had been put into place, individuals would not be allowed to get a new pit bull and live in Grosse Pointe Shores, unless licensed and identified.

As one of four individuals who voted for the new pit bull ban, Councilman John Dakmak believes that in the past pit bulls have shown aggression and have caused injury.

“I believe that the medical data over the past 20 years has shown that the roughly four different breeds that are commonly referred to as pit bulls are disproportionately the cause for serious bite and death injuries from dogs,” Dakmak said. “The data shows that on average, from year to year, the percentages fluctuate between the high 60s and low 70s of serious injury and death attributed to the pit

bull breeds across the country.”

A pit bull owner herself from Grosse Pointe Shores, Senior Jacqueline Koerner, is against the ban. Koerner does not believe that the ban will solve the recurring problem and claims that not all dog attacks in the Grosse Pointe Shores area have been from pit bulls in particular.

“I don’t think [the ban] will solve the issue that has been occurring,” Koerner said. “Two dog attacks that happened on my street both were dogs that were not pit bulls or pit bull mixes.”

Koerner isn’t the only owner feeling this way. Math teacher Erica Thacker, a pit bull mix owner, relates and considers the widespread prejudice against pit

bulls and pit bull mixes to be highly unfortunate, knowing that it could be disappointing for owners.

“I think that families with pit bulls in the community are going to be in a tough position because I’m sure now they may be considering other options for their pets,” Thacker said. “It’s unfortunate for the breed as a whole because then it reiterates the stigma that already exists in certain places.”

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JACQUELINE KOERNER
SENIOR

Keeping it brief

By Gabby Miller & Vinny Wilhelm
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Poupard to homes

In 2020, the school board voted to close Poupard Elementary School. Three years later, this area is the latest city development, now planned to become housing.

This decision worries junior and Poupard alum Fiona Jochum. She stresses the impact of this decision will not benefit the district, due to how difficult it will be to house families.

“I don’t like how small the space they’re trying to cram the houses into,” Jochum said. “I feel like the potential effect is families trying to fit into smaller spaces.”

Along with that, Jochum expresses that the district wanted to house in this area just to gain a profit, instead of thinking about how the housing would affect the community as a whole.

“I think they are trying to fit people into super small areas just to profit,” Jochum said.

PRIME’s decline

The North Store provides students with an array of drinks including one of the most popular, PRIME. With over 46 million YouTube subscribers combined, co-owners Logan Paul and KSI have made their product well known.

Per customers requests and the drink’s fame, North Store General Manager Brian Levinson has stocked the shelves with PRIME. However, several studies have revealed that PRIME hydration drinks contain high levels of sucralose, an artificial sweetener, harmful to overall health.

“Unfortunately, many beverages contain sucralose,” Levinson said. “Nearly every diet drink has sucralose, aspartame, or both instead of sugar.”

While the North Store does provide the PRIME hydration drinks, Levinson believes there is a higher attraction to other drinks ranking at the same low nutrition levels.

“We still have a few loyal Prime drinkers but the majority of students will choose Gatorade over Prime,” Levinson said. “I see many more students with Monster Energy, Celsius, or Red Bull beverages.”

Moosejaw closing

Moosejaw’s fourth Michigan location in The Village of Grosse Pointe recently announced its closing after 25 years. Joining the trend of Moosejaw stores meeting the end of the line, English teacher Paul Golm admits its demise doesn’t surprise him.

“I have never felt the urge to go in there,” Golm said. “I feel like there’s a lot of outlets online to buy outdoor clothing.”

Although admitting the closing is disappointing as Moosejaw is a Michigan staple, he believes it never truly had the spotlight and won’t pose as an inconvenience.

“I feel like the Moosejaw store was always smaller than a place like REI [Recreational Equipment, INC], where I usually go for outdoor stuff, or more expensive than a place like Sierra Trading [Post], which is a place to get a better deal,” Golm said.