



Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k

PRESS RELEASE

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MCK is NOT behind 'pit bull ban' proposal

For Immediate Release

(Kahnawake – 22, Seskehkó:wa/September 2017) The Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) wishes to clarify its position on the issue of a proposed 'pit bull ban' that Ratsénhaiensh Carl Horn submitted to the Kahnawà:ke Legislative Coordinating Commission (KLCC) earlier this week as a community member.

The request for legislation to ban dangerous breeds of dogs, such as pit bulls, was not submitted on behalf of the MCK but, rather, from Carl Horn as a private citizen. This was made clear in a press release issued by the KLCC yesterday. While Horn is a Council Chief, he does have the right to submit a request for a law as a private citizen, as do all Kahnawa'kehró:non. The only chiefs who can submit requests for laws or amendments on behalf of the table are the portfolio chiefs or the Grand Chief. Horn does not hold the Public Safety portfolio – Ratsénhaiensh Bobby Patton holds that position.

The MCK has no plans at this time to put such a law forward. In light of a recent dog attack that caused grievous injuries to a young boy, the MCK has met this week with the various departments and organizations (Peacekeepers, Animal Control, and Public Safety) to address the community's concerns and will work with the community on a solution.

"At this time we are looking for ways to ensure the problem of loose dogs and irresponsible pet owners is addressed to the satisfaction of the community," said Grand Chief Joseph Tokwiro Norton. "While there has been discussion about various breeds, it is **not** the position of the MCK to call for a ban on any breed of dog at this time. In certain circumstances, almost any type of dog can cause serious damage."

"If I can add, it seems as though the vast majority of community members feel that the onus is on pet owners to take responsibility," he added. "There is a need to address the loose dog problem quickly, effectively and permanently. Community members are fed up. And so are we."

A Special Community Meeting is currently in the process of being scheduled. Once the arrangements are completed, Kahnawa'kehró:non will be notified.

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