



Office of the Commissioner

Bryan P. Hurlburt Commissioner

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July 28, 2021

Mailed USPS/certified mail/return receipt #

Virginia Brown 396 Erskine Road Stamford, CT 06903 <u>Vbrown1236@optonline.net</u> <u>vbrown12181236@gmail.com</u>

Tilford Cobb
201 McGee Avenue
Stamford, CT 06901
stamfordanimalcontrol@stamfordct.gov

John Franzetti <u>JFranzetti1@StamfordCT.gov</u>
Dana Lee <u>DLee@StamfordCT.gov</u>
Nicholas Montagnese NMontagnese@StamfordCT.gov

RE: FINAL DECISION IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL OF RESTRAINT ORDERS PLACED ON THE DOGS ZEUS AND ISABELLA OWNED BY VIRGINIA BROWN BY THE TOWN OF STAMFORD

I am the final decision maker in the matter of the appeal of Restraint Orders for the dogs named Zeus and Isabella owned by Virginia Brown. The Restraint Orders were issued by the Town of Stamford ("Town") and a municipal animal control officer on December 13, 2019.

A Proposed Final Decision of the Hearing Officer was served upon the parties on or about April 29, 2021. The notice afforded each party the opportunity to present exceptions or briefs and make requests for oral arguments to the final decision maker. The Town submitted an exception to the Proposed Final Decision. The owner filed a brief as well as offered post-hearing/late-filed evidence, referenced as Dog Owner's Exhibits ("O") 30 through 47. The Town submitted an objection to the post-hearing evidence offered by the owner. Oral argument was requested by the owner and was held on July 8, 2021.

In its exception to the Proposed Final Decision the Town avers that Paragraph 13 of the Proposed Final Decision fails to clearly reflect the testimony of Officers Cobb and Franzetti with regard to temporality of the fencing solution approved by the Town's agents on Ms. Brown's property after the Restraint Orders were issued. I have considered this exception and do believe the fencing issue requires further clarification as discussed *infra*.

In her brief, Ms. Brown argues (1) that the Proposed Final Decision failed to appropriately consider whether Mr. Siblia ("the victim") provoked Zeus and Isabella by swinging a stick at them after

trespassing on her property, (2) the credibility of Officer Cobb, (3) whether the restraint orders were justified, (4) whether the Town's exhibits (T-4 through T-8) were correctly admitted into evidence, and (5) whether Officer Cobb's contact with the Department of Agriculture prejudiced the owner. I have considered each of these arguments.

I have reviewed the entire record in this matter. Upon due consideration of the entire record and all evidence and arguments of the parties at the hearing that took place on February 18, 2021 and the oral argument conducted on July 8, 2021, and all associated briefs/filings, I do concur with the hearing officer that the Town has met its burden and find there is a preponderance of evidence in the record to affirm the Restraint Orders. After investigation of a joint bite incident by Isabella and Zeus, restraint orders were necessarily issued by a municipal animal control to ensure the safety of Ms. Brown's neighbors and the safety of the public. These Restraint Orders are designed to ensure that Ms. Brown's dogs cannot leave her property again unattended, which could lead to another bite incident, and to ensure that when the dogs do leave the property, that they are trained and restrained so that no one else can be attacked or bitten.

On November 30, 2019, both Isabella and Zeus left Ms. Brown's property and then ran at, knocked over and bit an elderly victim. There is no evidence in the record to support Ms. Brown's theory that the victim provoked the dogs or that the victim was trespassing. Although she was at home, Ms. Brown did not see the incident and there is no witness testimony or exhibit that supports provocation or trespass. There is, however, evidence in the record that the victim was in a public road, and that while feeling threatened with the barking dogs in his path on the road (Ex. T-1 and T-2)) that the victim and his neighbor, Mr. Stuart, were attempting to avoid interaction with the barking dogs (with Mr. Stuart's car) when the dogs initially left their property. The victim informed Mr. Stuart that the dogs were facing him and blocking his path and the dogs had been a problem for him in the past. (Ex. T-2). It was reasonable for this elderly victim to waive a stick or a cane to defend himself against two barking dogs who were facing him and blocking his path in the road. Then, after Mr. Stuart left in his car, the two dogs again confronted the victim on the road. The dogs ran towards victim, they were barking and they were unattended. (Ex. T-1 and Tr. at p 24). The victim's written statement states that the dogs jumped on him and that both dogs started to bite him. There is a bit of conflict as to whether the dogs bit the victim first and then knocked him down, or whether he was knocked down first and then bitten by the dogs. Either way, there is evidence in the record that the dogs knocked the victim over and that both dogs bit him. There is evidence in the record that the victim had to fight off the dogs while on the ground while they continued to attack him (Tr. at p. 105). When Mr. Stuart came to the victim's aid while lying on his back on the road, the victim stated he had been bitten on his leg and that he had pain in his shoulder and back. (T-1 at pp. 1-2). Mr. Stuart later observed these dogs running loose on Eskine Road after the bite incident occurred.

The victim's written statement is consistent with the victim's oral statement given to ACO Franzetti, and ACO Franzetti's hearing testimony, and it is consistent with the written statement of Mr. Stuart (Ex. T-2). The victim was injured by the bites and required medical care. The victim went to the Tully Medical Center/Stamford Hospital. (Tr. at pp. 23-24, 26-27, Ex. T-3). Photographs of the victim in the record (Ex. T-3) show that the bites did cause a more serious injury than that of mere superficial puncture wounds as claimed by Ms. Brown (Tr. at pp. 55-56), and that the victim was also otherwise injured from his fall in the attack.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The dogs were not immediately quarantined by Animal Control on the date of the biting incident. The Conn. Gen. Stat. section 22-358(c) fourteen-day quarantine began several days later, on December 3, 2019 when Ms. Brown brought the dogs to Animal Control. Tr. at pp. 40-41. The dogs were picked up ten days later, on December 13, 2019. Tr. at p. 102.

Ms. Brown did have knowledge that her dogs have left her property because Ms. Brown stated that the dogs have "sometimes" broken through her property's electric fence or that had been a break in the line of the electric fence. Tr. at p. 20. Ms. Brown was home during the bite incident but was unaware of what was occurring. Tr. at p. 36. The Restraint Orders at issue are designed to ensure that when Isabella and Zeus are outside, that they cannot leave their yard unattended and bite anyone else; and Ms. Brown was provided with the option of, for instance, fencing off a portion of her property and keeping her dogs in that section. Tr. at pp. 87-89. Since the dogs have shown aggression in chasing the victim and knocking him down, the Restraint Orders at issue are designed to ensure that the dogs are trained and that they cannot break free on a walk and attack or bite or injure anyone else. There is testimony that training would be helpful with aggression and keeping the dogs on the property. Tr. at p. 86. These measures seem reasonable given the aggressive bite incident at issue.

Connecticut General Statute section 22-358(c) provides: "Any order issued pursuant to this section that requires the restraint of an animal shall be effective upon its issuance and shall remain in effect during any appeal of such order to the commissioner." The Restraint Orders were issued on December 13, 2019 and as of the time of the hearing on February 18, 2021, Ms. Brown had still not complied with the conditions of the Restraint Orders for training, for the outside pen, or for the chain-link fence. Tr. at pp. 41-43, 87-89, 122. It is concerning that although Ms. Brown states that she takes responsibility for the biting incident, Ms. Brown was home during the incident, she did not prevent the incident, she did not have sufficient measures in place at her home to keep the dogs from leaving her property, and also, without any evidence in the record, Ms. Brown blames the victim for her dogs biting the victim, down-plays the victim's injuries, and then despite the statutory mandate, has failed to adequately implement safety measures outlined in the Restraint Orders to prevent similar events. There is also a direct conflict regarding Ms. Brown's statements regarding the lack of her dogs' having prior bite histories and that she did not know that her dogs had ever bitten before -- and that of Ms. Brown's own introduction of Exhibit O-46 (discussed infra).

The Hearing Officer determined that each of the hearing witnesses were honest and straightforward and thus the Hearing Officer's credibility assessment of ACO Cobb, was therefore, that he was honest and straightforward. (PFD at p. 5).

Therefore, like the animal control officer that issued the Orders, by a preponderance of evidence in the record, I am of the opinion that based on the off-property, unprovoked and aggressive, joint dog bite attack by these two dogs on an elderly victim, that the issuance of the Restraint Orders here were justified and necessarily issued to protect surrounding neighbors and to protect public safety, and therefore I adopt the attached Proposed Final Decision, which is attached to and incorporated as part of this Final Decision, with the following Amendments:<sup>2</sup>

#### **Amendments:**

### The following Findings of Fact are amended as follows:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This Final Decision corrects a date in the Proposed Final Decision Finding of Fact #4, which states that the Restraint Orders were issued on December 13, 2020. The Restraint Orders were issued on December 13, 2019. Ex. T-3. Also, I note an error on the date of the Quarantine Orders themselves in Ex. T-3: The Quarantine Orders list date of quarantine as 11/03/19, but the bite incident did not occur until 11/30/19.

Finding of Fact # 13 is amended as follows: "13. Upon cross-examination by Ms. Brown, Officer Cobb was asked whether he received an email from her showing the type of fencing material she intended to use to comply with the Restraint Orders. Tr. at p. 98. Officer Cobb testified to receiving it. Tr. at p. 98-99. Officer Cobb testified that he approved the fencing material Ms. Brown had chosen for temporary usage. Id. Officer Franzetti also testified that he went to Ms. Brown's property and approved the fence she installed pursuant to the Restraint Orders for the for the time being. Tr. at p. 78-79. See also, Tr. at pp. 109-110, 113."

Thus I believe that at the time of the hearing, the type of fencing installed by Ms. Brown and approved by Animal Control was temporary, and only approved until a permanent chain-link fence could be installed.

### The RULING RE: Motion for Suppress Evidence is amended as follows:

The Hearing Officer ruled orally at the hearing that Ms. Brown's Motion to Suppress Town Exhibits T-4 through T-8 (HO Ex. 15), was granted and the parties were directed to provide evidence limited to the events of November 30, 2019. Tr. at p. 50. Town Exhibit T-7 was, however, later admitted into evidence at the hearing with no objection by Ms. Brown. Tr. at p. 85. Then, upon further consideration, the Hearing Officer determined in his Proposed Final Decision that prior incidents of Ms. Brown's ownership and control of dogs at her property demonstrated a continuing problem and that the Motion to Suppress was denied. (PFD at p. 5)

Given that the Motion to Suppress was granted at the hearing, and also because Ms. Brown is *pro se*, and may not have realized the implications of not objecting to the admission of Ex. T-7, I am going to err on the side of caution and in this Final Decision. I have not considered evidence at the February 18, 2021 hearing related to prior biting incidents of dogs owned by Ms. Brown in and through Exhibits T-4 through T-8.<sup>3</sup>

#### **The following RULING is inserted:**

Immediately following the ruling re: Motion to Suppress Evidence, the following heading is inserted: "RULING RE: Post-Hearing Evidence.". Under this heading is inserted as follows: "On or about May 13, 2021, Ms. Brown submitted with her post-hearing brief several exhibits, marked as Dog Owner's Exhibits ("O") 30 through 47. The Town filed an objection to the admission of post-hearing evidence, citing Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4-181a(a)(1)(B), while also making a number of objections to each proffered exhibit. The rules that govern practice before the Department of Agriculture, § 22-7-32 provides: 'Upon order of the commissioner before, during or after the hearing of a case, any party shall prepare and file added exhibits and testimony. Notice of the filing of such additional material shall be given to all parties by the party submitting the said material.'

I have reviewed the offer of this evidence in Ms. Brown's brief, the Town's objection as well as heard argument related to the same. In light of the same, I make the following evidentiary rulings:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> But see discussion, *infra*, regarding Exhibit O-46 late filed by Ms. Brown and admitted into the record.

Exhibits O-30, O-32, O-33, O-34, O-37, O-38, O-39, O-40, O-41, O-42, O-43, O-44, O-45, O-46 and O-47 are admitted.

Note that Ms. Brown's Ex. O-46 is a Bite Incident Report for her dog Isabella. This report shows that Isabella bit a man in his right calf in 2017, yet during the hearing and oral argument, Ms. Brown repeatedly stated that her dogs had no bite history and that she was not aware of her dogs biting. Ex. O-46 is in conflict with Ms. Brown's hearing representations. Ms. Brown's ownership and control of her dogs is relevant. *See*, *Cetnarowski v. Ferris*, Docket No. CV-990498515-S, 2000 WL 1196445 (Conn. Super., July 24, 2000).

Exhibit O-31 is not admitted as it is irrelevant in light of the complete absence of any credible information or evidence on the record to support Ms. Brown's assertion that Mr. Sibilia may have been suffering from a mental health disease at the time of the incident which led to the Restraint Orders. Oral Argument Tr. at p. 10.

O-35 and O-36 are not admitted, as they were previously admitted as pages 7 and 5 of Town's Exhibit 3, respectively. Moreover, Ms. Brown withdrew her request for admission of these exhibits at the time of oral argument. Oral Argument Tr. at p. 15.

O-47 is admitted, notwithstanding that Ms. Brown could not identify any credible or tangible way that her case was prejudiced in light of this exhibit. This written communication between Ms. Carole Briggs, Staff Attorney for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, and the Town's Animal Control Officer was not an *ex parte* communication as Ms. Brown is listed on the email and received it. With regard to my review of Exhibit O-47, I note that I was unaware of the Exhibit O-47 email until it was brought to my attention by Ms. Brown's late-filed exhibit request. Moreover, I have not discussed anything substantive about this case with Ms. Briggs, I have not discussed Exhibit O-47 with Ms. Briggs, nor have I been influenced in any way by Ms. Briggs in reaching my decision in this case. Exhibit O-47, while part of the record with this ruling, has not influenced or impacted my Final Decision at all.

Having admitted certain of the post-hearing exhibits into evidence as referenced above, I have reviewed each of these exhibits and given these exhibits their due weight in reaching this Final Decision herein.

Cody M. Guarmeri, Final Decision Maker

Date: July 28, 2021

Enclosed: Proposed Final Decision, which is attached and incorporated as part of the Final

Decision.



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### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

### **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

IN THE MATTER OF:

APPEAL OF RESTRAINT ORDER
ISSUED BY TOWN OF STAMFORD
FOR THE DOGS ZEUS AND ISABELLA

#### PROPOSED FINAL DECISION

I, Edward C. Taiman, Jr., the designated Hearing Officer in the Appeal of a Restraint Order issued by the Town of Stamford Animal Control Officer ("the Town"), in the matter of two dogs named "Zeus" and "Isabella" owned by Virginia Brown (referred to as "owner" or "Ms. Brown"), hereby issue the Proposed Final Decision in this matter. I have thoroughly reviewed the entire record, all the admitted exhibits, and all other related submissions of the parties. The Proposed Final Decision recommends affirming the Restraint Order as follows:

### **FINDINGS OF FACT:**

- 1. Commissioner Bryan P. Hurlburt appointed me as Hearing Officer in this matter to issue to him a Proposed Final Decision. Connecticut General Statute § 4 179. Hearing Officer ("HO") Exhibit 4. On November 9, 2020, the Notice of Hearing was sent by email to the Town and its attorney, and to the owner of Zeus and Isabella, for a hearing that was scheduled for January 5, 2021. Ex. HO 7. On December 30, 2020, a Notice of Hearing was sent by email to the Town and its attorney and to the owner of Zeus and Isabella rescheduling the January 5, 2021 hearing to January 28, 2021. Ex. HO 9. On January 28, 2021, a Notice of Hearing was sent by email to the Town and its attorney and to the owner of Zeus and Isabella rescheduling the January 28, 2021 hearing to February 18, 2021. Ex. HO 13.
- 2. The hearing commenced February 18, 2021 and was concluded on the same date after the Town and the owner each called all their respective witnesses, submitted all their exhibits, and stated that they did not have any other evidence for the record.



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- 3. The hearing was conducted in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, and the Department's Rules of Practice pertaining to contested cases, which regulations were provided to the parties. Ex. HO 13.
- 4. At issue is the appeal of the Restraint Order issued by the Town on December 13, 2020 to owner Virginia Brown concerning dogs named Zeus and Isabella. Ex. T 3.
- 5. The dogs, Zeus and Isabella, are owned by Virginia Brown of 396 Erskine Rd., Stamford, CT.
- 6. On November 30, 2019, John Stuart of 389 Erskine Road, Stamford, CT was leaving his home with his daughter and when he observed his neighbor, Giovanni Sibilia, standing in the street waving a stick at two dogs who were blocking his path. Ex. T 2. He then observed the two dogs retreat to 396 Erskine Road. Id. Mr. Stuart pulled up alongside Mr. Sibilia in such a way to create a barrier between the dogs and Mr. Sibilia. Id. As the parties proceeded further down the road past the property line of 396 Erskine Road, Mr. Stuart and Mr. Sibilia believed the danger had passed and Mr. Stuart proceeded to drive further down the road. Ex. T 2.
- 7. After proceeding short distance, Mr. Stuart's daughter alerted him that the dogs were chasing Mr. Sibilia, so he pulled over and got out of his car. Exhibit T 2. Mr. Stuart observed the two dogs approach Mr. Sibilia who at this time was running backwards "and as the dogs came upon him [he] fell backwards on the ground." Id. The dogs then retreated to 396 Erskine Road. Id.
- 8. At the February 18, 2021 hearing, John Franzetti, Assistant Animal Control Officer for the Town, testified that on November 30, 2019 he received a report of a dog bite attack made by Giovanni Sibilia which occurred on Erskine Road in Stamford, CT. February 18, 2021 Transcript (hereinafter "Transcript") at pg. 23. Officer Franzetti testified that he then reported to the Tully Health Center in Stamford, CT where he met Mr. Sibilia who was being treated for dog bites. Transcript at pgs. 23 24. Mr. Sibilia informed Officer Franzetti that he walks down Erskine Road daily. <u>Id</u>. at 24. On the date in question, two dogs came off 396 Erskine Road and onto the street where he was walking. <u>Id</u>. at 24 25. Officer Franzetti testified that Mr. Sibilia's neighbor, John Stuart, drove his car in between he and the dogs to block their path. <u>Id</u>. When Mr. Stuart drove away the two dogs ran off the property at 396 Erskine Road and bit Mr. Sibilia's leg causing him to fall



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to the ground. Transcript at 25-26, Exhibit T-3. Mr. Sibilia is since deceased. Transcript at pg. 27.

- 9. On November 30, 2019, Officer Franzetti issued an infraction to the owner of the dogs, Virginia Brown, for two counts of nuisance dog and fined Ms. Brown \$150. Both Zeus and Isabella were put on a 10 day off property quarantine at the Stamford Animal Control Department located in Stamford, CT. Exhibit T 3.
- 10. On December 13, 2019, the Town of Stamford acting through Animal Control Officer Tilford Cobb, with input from Officer John Franzetti, issued an Animal Restraint Order for each of the two dogs pursuant to Connecticut Gen. Stat. § 22 – 358. Exhibit T – 3, Transcript at pg. 36. Pursuant to the terms of the Restraint Orders, while off the property at 396 Erskine Road, Zeus and Isabella are to be at all times on a secure leash not more than 6' in length and under the control of a responsible person not less than 18 years of age with the animals being muzzled securely. Otherwise, the Animal Restraint Orders require the dogs be either confined to a 6' x 5' x 10' pen in the rear of the property, or the entire property is to be secured with a fenced yard that prevents escape of the animals or entry by children. The fencing is to be sized so that children cannot touch or pet the animals. The gate to the chain-link fence must have a spring to automatically close, and the dogs were to be trained by a professional dog trainer approved by Stamford Animal Control Officer Cobb. The dogs are also to have an electric fence collar on whenever outside. See, Animal Restraint Orders at Exhibit T – 3. A quarantine order for each dog was also issued by Officer Franzetti requiring a quarantine for a period of 10 days with a release date of December 10, 2019.
- 11. Officer Tilford Cobb, who manages the Stamford Animal Control and Care Center, testified to the necessity of the restraint orders. "We had an unprovoked attack where an elderly gentleman was walking down the street where he was knocked to the ground or he fell to the ground and these two dogs attacked him. So, he had to fend off two large dogs in an unprovoked attack. So, we felt that it was necessary to place this restraint on these dogs at this time." Transcript at pgs. 82 83.
- 12. Officer Cobb testified he was in the office on December 10, 2019 when Ms. Brown came into the office to retrieve the dogs at the expiration of the Restraint Orders. Transcript at pg. 82. He said he explained to Ms. Brown that he would not release her dogs until



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the stipulations of the Restraint Orders were abided by. Transcript at pg. 83. He also testified that professional training would help with the aggression of the dogs and would keep them on Ms. Brown's property. <u>Id</u>. at 86.

- 13. Upon cross-examination by Ms. Brown, Officer Cobb was asked whether he received an email from her showing the type of fencing material she intended to use to comply with the Restraint Orders. Transcript at pg. 98. Officer Cobb testified to receiving it.

  Transcript at pg. 99. Officer Cobb testified that he approved the fencing material Ms. Brown had chosen. <u>Id</u>. Officer Franzetti also testified that he went to Ms. Brown's property and approved the fence she installed pursuant to the Restraint Orders.

  Transcript at pg. 70. <u>See also</u>, Transcript at pg. 111 and Exhibit DO 8.
- 14. Virginia Brown, the owner of Zeus and Isabella, said in her opening statement "I take full responsibility for my dogs leaving the yard that day and attacking Mr. Sibilia." Transcript at pg. 19. She testified that on the date in question the dogs were let out by her son's friend who was there for the first time and who was not aware that electric fence collars needed to be put on each of the dogs. Transcript at pg. 116. She stated that neither of the dogs have a bite history or a history of being vicious and that the attack was provoked by Mr. Sibilia who swung a stick at them. Transcript at pg. 118. She also testified that Mr. Sibilia's injuries were superficial puncture marks and that restraint orders should not have been placed on the dogs. Transcript at pg. 117-18. However, she did not witness the attack. Id. at 118.
- 15. Exhibit DO 2 is a letter from Laura Green stating that on the date in question she was visiting Ms. Brown's son. Ms. Green's letter states she was unaware at the time that the dogs required their electronic collars before being let out and accepted responsibility for letting both dogs out on the date in question.
- 16. On February 15, 2021, Ms. Brown submitted her Motion for Summary Judgment. Exhibit H0 14. The motion seeks a finding that the City of Stamford conducted an unconstitutional search and seizure of her two dogs. The motion was taken under advisement.
- 17. Also on February 15, 2021, Ms. Brown submitted her Motion to Suppress Evidence. See, HO-15. It seeks to exclude exhibits T-4, T-5, T-6, T-7 and T-8, each of which are



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prior incident reports concerning other dogs owned by Ms. Brown. The motion was taken under advisement.

#### **LEGAL DISCUSSION:**

Connecticut General Statute  $\S22-358(c)$  provides that "the Commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any municipal animal control officer... may make any Order concerning the restraint or disposal of any biting dog or other animal as the Commissioner or such officer deems necessary." It further provides that following a hearing on such Order the Commissioner may affirm, modify or revoke such Order as the Commissioner deems proper."

### **RULING RE: Motion for Summary Judgment:**

Prior to the hearing, Virginia Brown submitted her Motion for Summary Judgment. The motion taken under advisement for later consideration. I have reviewed the Motion in its entirety. It seeks relief beyond the jurisdiction of this tribunal. As hearing officer, I do not have the legal authority to determine whether Zeus and Isabella were taken from Ms. Brown in violation of the United States Constitution. Therefore, the Motion is denied. Ms. Brown is free to pursue those claims elsewhere.

#### RULING RE: Motion to Suppress Evidence

On February 15, 2021, Ms. Brown submitted her Motion to Suppress Evidence. See, HO-15. It sought to exclude exhibits T-4, T-5, T-6, T-7 and T-8, each of which are prior incident reports concerning other dogs owned by Ms. Brown. The basis for her motion is that of relevance. Having considered the motion and reviewed the prior incident reports, the Motion to Suppress is denied. The prior incident reports demonstrate a continuing, ongoing problem with Ms. Brown's ownership and control of her dogs at 396 Erskine Road.

### **RULING RE: RESTRAINT ORDER:**

During the hearing I had the opportunity to view the witnesses and assess their credibility. They each appeared honest and straightforward.

The evidence before this tribunal is uncontroverted. That is, on the date in question, Zeus and Isabella left their yard at 396 Erskine Road, Stamford, CT and without provocation



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attacked and bit Mr. Sibilia. Virginia Brown, the owner of Zeus and Isabella, admitted that it was her dogs who bit Mr. Sibilia. Transcript at pg. 19.

The Restraint Orders were reasonably tailored to prevent another occurrence by Zeus and/or Isabella. A prior, unprovoked attack by either dog is not a necessary predicate to the issuance of a restraint order. Connecticut Gen. Stat. § 22 – 358 grants an animal control officer with broad discretion. The orders at issue were tailored to restraining the dogs and to provide them with training. They appear reasonable in all aspects.

Having carefully reviewed all the evidence in the record, including testimony presented, I find the Town has satisfied its burden that by a preponderance of the evidence the Restraint Orders issued by Stamford Animal Control Officer Cobb should be UPHELD.

Dated April 29, 2021

Edward C. Taiman, Jr., Hearing officer