From:	Maggie Bornstein
To:	Josh Slotnick; Grp. City Council and City Web Site; dstrohmaier@missoulacounty.us; jvero@missoulacounty.us
Subject:	Dog safety in Missoula
Date:	Sunday, March 27, 2022 9:18:53 AM

Hello Council & County Commissioners

I am reaching out because at the end of February, I was attacked by a stranger's pit bull whilst knocking doors off of Mullan road. There was no fenced front yard — The dog simply attacked me when someone opened the door.

I had to go to the hospital because I was bitten badly on my leg. The dog also bit through a winter jacket & sweater to slightly puncture my arm twice and grazed my face when it ripped off my face mask. While waiting for a ride from my boyfriend, the owner shared it had previous history of aggression.

In the hospital, a sheriff told me it probably attacked me because I was wearing a face mask. Both the dog training staff at Western Montana Humane Society & an officer for Animal Control told me that they had never heard such a reason. It was a clear effort to insert his personal/political feelings in the midst of a physically painful & traumatic event. It was inappropriate.

Animal Control called a few times to tell me it did not have rabies and to check-in. Repeatedly, I asked them to take action to prevent this from happening again and they said they could not. No citation was issued and no training was mandated. It is only a matter of time until this dog attacks a child or senior who cannot withstand it.

Last week, I had a panic attack in the parking lot of Blue Mountain. I had to go home — But I understand, off leash dogs are allowed there. However, when biking home from work on a leash required trail on Wednesday, one of a man's two large, off-leash dogs began approaching me. I asked him to please grab his dog as I was recently attacked. He refused and told me it wouldn't touch me. It did and I had a panic attack. He yelled at me, telling me "I didn't need to freak out." All I wanted was for him to follow the law.

I love this community but irresponsible and inconsiderate dog ownership is out of control. Every time I share what happened, people suggest that Animal Control can do something. Like clockwork, I see people's horror to find out we live in a place where dogs can physically harm people with no consequences. It doesn't have to be that way and I am asking for your help in making that possible.

Thank you all so much for listening. I look forward to seeing changes around dog safety in Missoula.

With gratitude,

Maggie Bornstein