



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Update on Litigation Related to 2019 Dog Mauling Incident

SUFFIELD, CT – May 5, 2025 — The Town of Suffield is providing an update on the ongoing litigation related to the tragic 2019 incident in which Janet D'Aleo was brutally mauled to death by a dog owned by residents Annie and Neil Hornish.

Following the attack, a disposal order for the dog was issued by the Town's animal control officer. The dog owners appealed the order to the Department of Agriculture and initially complied with all statutory requirements, including payment for the dog's boarding while litigation was pending. However, in 2022, the dog owners ceased making these payments and filed a lawsuit against the Town, alleging the Town was unjustly enriched due to their prior payments.

In response, the Town filed a counterclaim seeking recovery of the unpaid boarding fees, as required by Connecticut law. Today, the Court ruled in the Town's favor, granting judgment in the amount of \$76,215.34 through January 31, 2025 with additional fees continuing to accrue at a rate of \$66.36 per day from February 1, 2025 onward. The Court also awarded post judgment interest on the amount outstanding at a rate of 7.5% per year.

On April 23, 2025, the Superior Court also rendered summary judgment in favor of the Town dismissing the dog owners' unjust enrichment claim.

"I am thrilled with the results of the Superior Court case" said First Selectman Colin Moll. "The tax payers of Suffield deserve to be made whole. We are one step closer to the conclusion of this long and unnecessary saga."

Separately, the appeal of the disposal order was upheld by both the Department of Agriculture and, subsequently, the Connecticut Superior Court. The dog owners have further appealed the disposal order to the Connecticut Appellate Court, which heard oral arguments on April 14, 2025. A decision from the Appellate Court is expected in the near future.

Moll continued, "The Town remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents. The Litigants have dragged this case on for far too long and unnecessarily delayed justice. While the Town is now able to collect the boarding fees owed, the Town will explore additional remedies to make the taxpayers whole for legal expenses. The Board of Selectmen is committed to taking all necessary legal steps in this matter to protect the public from this dangerous dog until justice can be carried out."

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