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COUNTY OF DANE
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RISK MANAGEMENT

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DAN LOWNDES
Risk Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE CITY/COUNTY LIASION COMMITTEE
FROM: DAN LOWNDES
DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2018
RE: DOGS IN THE CCB

Dane County's policy on service animals on County properties (attached) states that Dane County welcomes *Service Animals* everywhere that members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, and/or invitees are allowed to go. However, there is nothing in the policy that would allow anyone (employees or members of the public) to bring *household pets* onto Dane County property. There are several reasons for this.

First, there is a concern about allergies. Outside one of the City's offices on 5th floor, there is a sign designating the office as a "fragrance free zone." In recent years, the County has had at least three ADA from employees requesting fragrance free zones. We have at least one County employee here in the CCB who has allergies so severe that she carries an EpiPen on her person. In addition to employees, it is reasonable to assume that many members of the public visiting their elected officials (the Mayor, the County Executive, City Alders, County Supervisors, County Treasurer, County Clerk, Register of Deeds, etc.) as well as the City Assessor, Parks, and Municipal Court, might be affected by having dogs in public spaces of the City County Building.

Second, there is the potential for damage to government and/or employees' personal items. If a dog chews on office furniture (or gets a carpet dirty), the damage most likely will be below our deductible. That means that if the dog owner does not pay for the damage, that loss will be borne by the taxpayers. On the other hand, if a dog chews on an employee's purse (or otherwise gets the purse "dirty"), neither the City nor the County has no coverage for loss of personal property. Again, if the dog owner does not pay for the damage, the owner of the purse would incur the loss. You can imagine that if the owner of the dog is a co-worker, such situations could quickly escalate, causing both the workers and management to become distracted for doing the work of government.

Third, there is a worry about safety. It is quite possible that someone will bring their pit bull into work just to prove how safe their dog is, but then have the experiment go horribly wrong.