

April 19, 2010

10-015

City of Brampton releases Brittany and Rambo

Brampton, ON: The City of Brampton and the Branco and Gaspar families - owners of the dogs known as Brittany and Rambo, respectively – jointly announce that both dogs have been released to their owners. That conclusion was reached as the result of an agreed-upon process that was approved by City Council at its meeting on April 14, 2010.

On January 13, 2010, Brittany and Rambo were taken in by City of Brampton Animal Services due to evidence indicating that the dogs are pit bulls under the Province of Ontario's *Dog Owners' Liability Act, 2005* (DOLA). Under this legislation, all pit bulls born after November 29, 2005, are considered illegal.

At the heart of the dispute between the City and the dogs' owners was whether the dogs are pit bulls. If they are, the legislation is very clear about what can and cannot be done with them once they are in the care of Animal Services.

The City and the dogs' owners agreed to resolve the matter through a process that worked toward a resolution within the parameters of DOLA and the City's Dog By-law. An independent veterinarian, who had no prior involvement in the matter, conducted an examination of the dogs and prepared a report setting out his analysis and conclusions as to whether they are pit bulls.

Following his examination of the dogs on April 16, 2010, the veterinarian concluded that the dogs are not pit bulls under DOLA. As stated in the agreement between the City and the families, the dogs were immediately released to their owners under certain agreed-upon terms and conditions. This includes the stipulation that the dogs be designated and licensed as "potentially dangerous dogs", which requires that they be microchipped and sterilized, and that they are leashed and muzzled when out in public spaces.

The City and the Branco and Gaspar families are satisfied that this matter has been resolved.

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About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple 'A' credit rating by Standard & Poor's, reflecting its successful economy and debt-free position. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak more than 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being known as the Flower City of Canada. Brampton has been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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