

**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET**

Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk

This form is a public record

MEETING DATE: 5/8/14
AGENDA # _____ OR NON-AGENDA SUBJECT: 2/13/14 service
FOR: _____ AGAINST: ANIMAL
NAME: PAUL, ADOLPH, PHILLIPS
CONTACT INFORMATION (optional):
ADDRESS: 1212 SW CLAY APT #217
CITY/STATE/ZIP: PORTLAND, OREGON 97201
PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD IN PERSON:

1. Fill out this form and submit to the Board Clerk.
2. Non-Agenda items will be called immediately after the vote on the Consent Agenda.
3. Agenda items will be called during that item's presentation, before the vote is taken.
4. Presenters are called to testify in the order forms are received. The Presiding Officer may rearrange the order testimony is given or ask Invited Guests or Elected Officials to speak first.
5. Public testimony is limited to **3 minutes or less** per person unless otherwise directed by the Chair, who is the Presiding Officer.
6. If submitting handouts to be given to the Board, 7 copies are required. If one copy is provided, it will be received for the file and electronically shared with the Board after the meeting.
7. All meetings are audio and video recorded and can be viewed at: multco.us. Click on Government/Board Meetings, and select meeting of your choice.
8. When your name is called, come forward and be seated at the presenter's table; state your name for the record and speak clearly into the microphone.
9. A buzzer will signify the end of your allotted time.
10. The Chair has authority to keep order and may impose reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of a meeting. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who creates a disturbance may be asked or required to leave and upon failure to do so, becomes a trespasser and will be treated accordingly.

IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE BOARD IN LIEU OF GIVING ORAL COMMENTS:

1. Complete this form and submit it along with your written testimony to the Board Clerk at the meeting, or by e-mail at: lynda.grow@multco.us
2. Written testimony will be entered into and remain a part of the official record.

4/29/14

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Police dog bite leads to officer's lawsuit

SHERWOOD

Officer says K-9 not ready for patrol after unprovoked attack

By GEOFF PURSINGER
Pamplin Media Group

A Sherwood police officer is suing Clackamas County and a California dog training organization for more than \$1 million after he was attacked by the Sherwood Police Department's own K-9 police dog.

Sgt. Nathan Powell filed a complaint in Multnomah County Circuit Court on April 15, seeking damages from Adlerhorst International, the company that sold Sherwood the dog, as well as its president, David Reaver, and Clackamas County, which ran a training program with the dog before it started work in Sherwood in 2011.

Azi, a 3-year-old German shepherd, joined Sherwood's law enforcement team in July 2011, after Adlerhorst officials hand-picked the dog for placement in the city.

Adlerhorst is one of the largest private police dog schools in the world, providing canines to more than 500 law enforcement agencies. Dogs undergo up to two years of training in Europe followed by a course in the United States, according to the company. Reaver then personally inspects and tests the service animals.

What happened?

Before beginning work, Azi and his handler underwent training in Clackamas County, which certified the team was ready to begin police work. But Powell said Azi was never a good fit for the department, culminating in an attack six months after the dog arrived.

Powell was on duty with the Sherwood Police Department on the evening of April 19, 2012, when he and another officer stepped outside into a fenced-in

Instead, Azi escalated the attack, shaking his jaw while locked onto Powell's arm and dragging the officer to the ground.

According to the complaint, the attack lasted a full minute, with Azi crushing Powell's arm and biting him several times before he eventually relented.

The complaint stated, "By that time, (Powell) was bleeding profusely and had sustained severed tendons to four of the five fingers on his right hand."

Powell was rushed to an emergency room, and his injuries required surgery. Powell reportedly continues to suffer severe pain because of the attack. The officer sustained permanent loss of function in his hand and arm. For a time, he was unable to work and could not use a shoulder-mounted police radio or holster and handle his firearm.

According to Powell, Adlerhorst neglected to properly train and screen Azi before his sale to Sherwood. If it had, the dog's overly aggressive, overly protective and vicious tendencies would have been noticed, which should have been relayed to Sherwood police prior to purchasing the animal.

Clackamas County dog trainers did recognize those traits, Powell said, but allowed the dog to pass its certifications anyway.

"Throughout that training, the Clackamas County sheriff's designees responsible for training Azi and his handler ... observed that the dog did not promptly respond despite repeated commands, was overly protective and was difficult to control," the complaint reads. "Even though they had the knowledge, expertise and experience to determine that Azi was not suitable for police work, particularly with a new K-9 handler, the trainer ... nonetheless certified the dog, allowing it to begin work for Sherwood."

Not the first time

This wasn't the first troublesome instance Sherwood police had with Azi. That same year

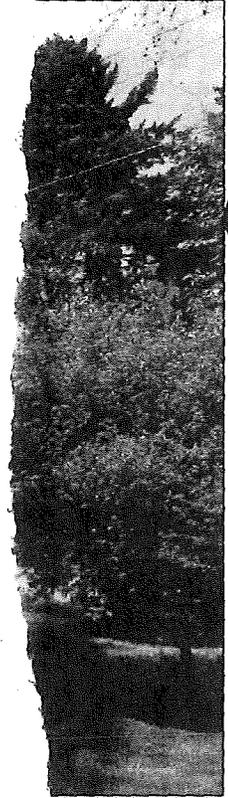


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