City may revisit dog ban on Washington Street

By JACK HICHER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPEMAY— Seeing dogs on the Washington Street Mall is common as a four-legged companion in spite of the dog ban. Some merchants claim it is a service dog or comfort dog. He said the public was aware of rules pertaining to service dogs and when offi ces approached a person with an animal, he claimed it was a service dog.

Marino said a number of businesses on the mall encouraged dogs to visit the mall and some bring their dogs to their shops. “It’s something that we may want to revisit this as a community, just to see if that amenity that can be had,” he said.

The township was willing to provide comfort and cleanup material for dogs on the mall, Marino said. Police would primarily be concerned with a dog attempting to break up a dog fight, he said. The issue also existed on the Promenade.

Cape May Mayor Camilla Marino said in speaking to the president of the BID, he discovered a vote took place in the past for a recommendation to allow dogs on the mall. He said an agreement between city council and council but it never was presented to a full body of council. He said council can make the decision.

“I know that we have changing times now with a lot of families than they ever used to have,” Marino said. “It’s a very strict guidelines as far as how it may require and identify if an animal is a service dog or comfort dog. He said the public was aware of rules pertaining to service dogs and when offi ces approached a person with an animal, he claimed it was a service dog.

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Councilman Roger Furlin inquiry if any dog bites have occurred on the mall. Marino said there were no incidents. He said most dog bites were found east of Madison Avenue and some dogs were escaping from their homes and attacking other dogs. Bites to humans were usually received by an owner of a dog attempting to break up a fight, he said.

Councilman Bob Pas- sango said he had a few questions of the mall from BID members. Ma- rino said society’s attitude towards dogs has changed drastically during the past five to 10 years.

City Solicitor Frank Cor- iano said the city cannot let a dog ban be. He said that anyone using a service dog to work at the mall. He said any time a person who approaches someone, it causes some issues and questions under the Fourth Amendment.

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