



ORANGE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
Animal Services

1601 Eubanks Road | Chapel Hill, NC 27516 | phone: (919) 942-7387 | fax: (919) 918-2393
<http://orangecountync.gov/departments/animalservices>

May 7, 2018

To: Beth Vazquez, Assistant Town Clerk--Advisory Board Support, Communications & Public Affairs,
Town of Chapel Hill

From:  Maureane Hoffman, MD, Ph.D., Chair, Animal Services Advisory Board and  Molly Mullins, Ph.D.,
Vice Chair, Animal Services Advisory Board

Re: *Town of Chapel Hill Recommendation for new Animal Services Advisory Board Member*

We are writing on behalf of Orange County's Animal Services Advisory Board (ASAB) in regard to the position on our board that is designated for a resident of Chapel Hill. The person presently in that position (Heather Booth) is not available to be reappointed to another term as she and her family will be moving from the area in the near future. As a result, the Chapel Hill Town Council will be asked to recommend another town resident to serve on the ASAB.

The ASAB is asking that your Town Council consider recommending that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) appoint Amanda Schwoerke to the vacancy on our board. Ms. Schwoerke is already a member of the Animal Services Hearing Panel Pool, a group of residents appointed by the BOCC to hear dangerous animal appeals in a quasi-judicial process. She has served on a number of panels and her service in this capacity has been complimented by others involved in these hearings.

As a result of her experience, the ASAB believes that Ms. Schwoerke is very well suited to serve as one of the three members of the ASAB that the BOCC appoints to the Hearing Panel Pool. These three people have the special role of chairing the panels responsible for the appeal hearings for residents of the county including residents of the Town of Chapel Hill. Having someone with experience and a proven track record who can serve in this capacity is especially important since one of the ASAB members on the pool has reached her term limit and the quasi-judicial process remains rather new.

Our comments are not intended to slight Ms. Schwoerke's other qualifications for becoming a member of the ASAB. These are abundantly evident in her application to the board. But we think it would be hard to find someone who could serve as well as Ms. Schwoerke as a hearing panel chair and it is for this reason that we are making this special request.

Cc: Donna Baker, Clerk, Board of County Commissioners
Thom Freeman, Deputy Clerk, Board of County Commissioners
Bob Marotto, Animal Services Director