

DogsBite.org
P.O. Box 12443
Austin, TX 78711

Chief of Police Peter Newsham
D.C. Metropolitan Police Department
Henry J. Daly Building
300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

October 19, 2018

Dear Police Chief Peter Newsham,

My nonprofit organization, DogsBite.org, sent the below letter to City Councilmember leadership, each at large Councilmember and Councilmember Trayon White of the 8th Ward. However, this really is a police matter. Your department should explicitly disallow “any” employee of Humane Rescue Alliance to make ANY future media statements after ANY damaging or deadly dog mauling.

Dear Chairman of the Council,

My name is Colleen Lynn and I am the founder of DogsBite.org, a national dog bite victims’ advocacy group. My nonprofit organization is eleven years old.

On October 14, 2018, in the 8th Ward, 55-year old Angela Smith was brutally attacked and killed by a family pit bull that Smith and her husband had raised from a puppy for the last eight years. Considerable TV footage was taken of this dog.

After her death, the taxpayer funded D.C. animal control contracting agency, Humane Rescue Alliance, specifically, Chris Schindler, Vice President of Field Services, deliberately distorted the truth to the media and the public about this dog breed, calling it a “very large breed mix dog—mixed-breed dog” on television.¹

The dog was such a remarkably obvious pit bull, which are routinely bred for large and XL sizes,² that journalists were confused. So most verified the breed of dog

¹ Cori Coffin, “Husband of DC woman mauled by their dog: ‘She didn’t deserve to die like this,’” October 15, 2018 (Accessed October 18, 2018: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/husband-of-dc-woman-mauled-by-their-dog-she-didn-t-deserve-to-die-like-this->)

² Just type “XL pit bull” into Google, just one example of hundreds of breeders, ManMade Kennels, XL pit bulls & supplies: (Accessed October 18, 2018: <https://www.manmadekennels.com/>)

through the highest authority agency, the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, which stated the dog was classified as a pit bull, according to media reports.

The role of Humane Rescue Alliance is to be factual with the media and public, particularly under these conditions. The role is not to *intentionally* mislead them in an effort to “protect” the breed’s reputation and to disrupt—with the aim of *doctoring*—national statistics regarding breeds of dogs involved in fatal human attacks, which nonprofits like mine document for the public and researchers.

What Schindler said on Fox 5 News, while standing in front of an Alliance transport van covered with large, vivid photographs of pit bulls, was a deliberate misrepresentation of the facts after a woman was mauled to death by a pit bull.

Council members and D.C. taxpayers are under the assumption, incorrectly, that a primary role of the Alliance is “public safety.” Schindler’s deception, along with the Alliance’s overwhelming corporate “branding” of pit bull images, makes clear their primary role is to “protect” the breed’s reputation, and to do so at any cost.³

Chris Schindler and the Humane Rescue Alliance failed in their duty to properly serve the District of Columbia. Council members and the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department should explicitly disallow “any” employee of Humane Rescue Alliance to make ANY future media statements after ANY damaging or deadly dog mauling.

I thank you for your attention on this matter,

Colleen Lynn
President & Founder
DogsBite.org

³ Pit bull branding on the semi-truck sized transport van and on multiple pages of their corporate website, [humanerescuealliance.org](http://www.humanerescuealliance.org), including “About Us” (Accessed October 18, 2018: <http://www.humanerescuealliance.org/about>) and “Animal Control Services” (Accessed October 18, 2018: <http://www.humanerescuealliance.org/animal-care-and-control>)



“Very large breed mix dog -- mixed-breed dog”

-Chris Schindler, Vice President of Field Services for the Humane Rescue Alliance



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