



# MARTIN COUNTY

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### **BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 125.66(3), FLA. STAT.**

**1. A summary of the proposed ordinance, including a statement of the public purpose to be served by the proposed ordinance, such as serving the public health, safety, morals, and welfare of the county.**

Currently, the Animal Services Unit of the Martin County Sheriff's Office is authorized by Chapter 9 of the General Ordinances, to have a dog declared dangerous when the dog meets certain criteria. An owner of such a dog can contest this declaration by appearing at a hearing before the County Administrator or his/her designee, who makes the determination of the dog's status. This amendment seeks to authorize the County Administrator or a special magistrate to preside over a dangerous dog determination hearing. This amendment seeks to ensure proper restrictions, requirements, and/or actions can be imposed upon an owner when his/her dog is deemed dangerous. This amendment also authorizes the hearing officer to order a dog be euthanized when the dog was previously deemed dangerous and subsequently injures or kills a human or animal again. These amendments will protect the health, safety, morals, and welfare of the County by protecting them from the actions of dangerous dogs.

**2. An estimate of the direct economic impact of the proposed ordinance on private, for-profit businesses in the county, including the following, if any:**

**a. An estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur if the ordinance is enacted.**

This amendment does not require a compliance cost on businesses.

**b. Identification of any new charge or fee on businesses subject to the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible.**

This amendment does not impose a charge or fee on businesses, nor does it impose a charge or fee for which businesses would be financially responsible.

**c. An estimate of the County's regulatory costs, including an estimate of revenues from any new charges or fees that will be imposed on businesses to cover such costs.**

This amendment would require owners of dangerous dogs to register the dog annually with the Tax Collectors' office, or the designated collecting agency. Currently the fee is

\$100.00. On a yearly average, there are approximately four (4) dogs that are deemed dangerous in the County. In the last five years, no individuals have registered their dogs as dangerous with The Tax Collector's Office. Considering the amount of dangerous dogs the County encounters and that the average life span of a dog is 11.5 years, it would be projected that enforcement of this amendment could potentially result in revenue of \$500-\$1,000 a year.

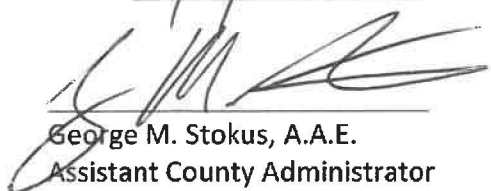
**3. A good faith estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the ordinance.**

The only businesses expected to be impacted would be veterinarians that could microchip, tattoo, and/or sterilize a dangerous dog, or euthanize a dangerous dog. Those costs would be borne by the owner, not the County or the business. As of 2024, there were 36 (thirty-six) veterinarians in Martin County who had been issued a Business Tax Receipt. With a yearly average of four (4) dogs being deemed dangerous, only four (4) businesses may be impacted.

**4. Any additional information the board determines may be useful.**

None.

Dated: 7/16/24

  
George M. Stokus, A.A.E.  
Assistant County Administrator

  
Melissa Pietrzyk, Esq.  
Senior Assistant County Attorney