



July 16, 2024

The Honorable Mitch Colvin
Mayor of Fayetteville

Doug Hewett, M.P.A.
City Manager

The Honorable Kathy Jensen
Mayor Pro Tem

Members of the Fayetteville City Council

Via e-mail: MitchColvin@FayettevilleNC.gov;
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Dear Mayor Colvin, Mr. Hewett, Mayor Pro Tem Jensen, and Council Members:

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our nearly 159,000 members and supporters in North Carolina regarding a shocking case in which a Fayetteville Police Department K-9 [handler abused his dog](#) during a traffic stop on the weekend of June 22. PETA initially wrote privately to the chief of police immediately upon reviewing the [now-viral video](#) filmed by a bystander but did not receive a response or acknowledgment of the letter. **Since the Fayetteville Police Department seems to be ignoring those concerned about this case, we respectfully request that you intervene for the safety of the K-9 and the community at large.**

We understand that sometimes, an officer acts in a manner that doesn't reflect his agency's mission, commitment, or training procedures, but according to the [official statement](#) released by the police department on July 5, the agency's internal investigation found nothing wrong, even though the handler punched the dog in the face *seven times* while holding and yanking him by the collar to lift him off the ground. The statement blames the K-9, who apparently bit the handler due to a fear response. As you know, patrol dogs are trained to neutralize a threat by biting. The statement omits the K-9's current status and whether the handler did or will face any repercussions for his actions.

We respectfully request that the K-9 be removed from this handler's custody and retired immediately. After such abusive treatment, this dog—who surely cost the city tens of thousands of dollars to acquire, train, and care for—is no longer suitable for police work. We also urge you to reassign the handler to other duties that don't involve animals and to engage an external agency, such as

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Entities:

- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Switzerland
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (U.K.)

the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office or the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, to conduct an investigation in order to provide an unbiased approach and some measure of transparency to the process. Since the police department hasn't released or responded to any requests for further information, **Fayetteville residents have understandably become increasingly concerned about the welfare of K-9s used by the agency and are questioning whether the community can trust a police department that approves of and justifies cruelty to animals.**

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. I can be reached at [REDACTED]. I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Most respectfully,



Allison Fandl
Manager of Special Projects
Cruelty Investigations Department | PETA