

▶ **FILE #:** 8-E-08-UR **AGENDA ITEM #:** 60

POSTPONEMENT(S): 8/14/2008-9/11/2008 **AGENDA DATE:** 10/9/2008

▶ **APPLICANT:** **BYRD & COOPER ARCHITECTS BARRY BYRD**

OWNER(S): SANDY POPE

TAX ID NUMBER: 20 032 & 038.01

JURISDICTION: County Commission District 8

▶ **LOCATION:** **Southeast side of Old Maynardville Pike, southeast of Cline Rd.**

▶ **APPX. SIZE OF TRACT:** **14 acres**

SECTOR PLAN: North County

GROWTH POLICY PLAN: Rural Area

ACCESSIBILITY: Access is via Old Maynardville Pk., a local street with a pavement width of 20' within a 40' wide right-of-way

UTILITIES: Water Source: Hallsdale-Powell Utility District

Sewer Source: NA

WATERSHED: Beaver Creek

▶ **ZONING:** **A (Agricultural)**

▶ **EXISTING LAND USE:** **Dog training center, kennel & detached dwelling**

▶ **PROPOSED USE:** **Dog training center and kennel**

HISTORY OF ZONING: None noted

SURROUNDING LAND USE AND ZONING: North: Detached dwellings / A agricultural

South: Detached dwellings / A agricultural

East: Detached dwellings / A agricultural

West: Detached dwellings / A agricultural

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT: Property in the area is zoned A agricultural and CA commercial. Development in the area consists of detached dwellings on parcels generally greater than one acre in size. The commercially zoned property in the area is mostly undeveloped.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

▶ **APPROVE the request for a boarding kennel for up to forty-five dogs and a dog training facility subject to 10 conditions**

1. Meeting all applicable requirements of the Knox County Zoning Ordinance
2. Meeting all applicable requirements of the Knox County Health Dept.
3. Relocating the existing kennel buildings to the area directly behind or beside the existing garage that is located behind Ms. Pope's dwelling. Provide roofs over the outside kennels. Provide a combination of a vegetative buffer and fencing to act as a sound barrier around the entire kennel area
4. Installing a six foot high wood privacy fence along the northern boundary of the Webb property (020 IA 004) as shown on the development plan. At the time a house is built on the Cox property (020 IA 003) the

- fence will be extended along their common boundary within six months of the completion of the dwelling.
5. Provide the landscaping as shown on the development plan for the area directly behind the Webb property that is used as the dog training ground. In addition to the landscaping, provide a six foot high security fence around the dog training area.
  6. Design and construct a parking lot that is located in close proximity to the relocated kennel buildings. Strictly prohibit parking outside of the area designated for parking.
  7. Limiting the hours of the kennel operation as noted on "Exhibit A" and all dog training classes are to be concluded by 8:30 PM. All outdoor lighting in the area of the training ground must be shut off no later than 9:00 PM
  8. Elimination of the shows or competitions that involve dogs that are not being trained by the applicant's client
  9. A revised site plan reflecting the conditions of approval must be submitted to MPC staff prior to commencing any construction as required by this approval
  10. Meeting all conditions of approval within six months from the date of approval by the MPC

#### **COMMENTS:**

The applicant is representing Sandra Pope who owns and resides at 8324 Old Maynardville Pk. Ms. Pope has operated a dog training center and kennel at this location for a number of years without approval by MPC through the use on review process as required by the Knox County Zoning Ordinance. The Zoning Ordinance states that it is "necessary to give special consideration to certain uses because they are unique in nature, require large land areas, are potentially incompatible with the existing development, or because the effect of such uses cannot definitely be foreseen. The uses listed under the various zones as Uses Permitted on Review are so classified because they more intensely dominate the area in which they are located than do other uses permitted in the zone. Therefore, these uses must be specially placed into the development pattern which exists at the time of arrival."

With proper planning and management a dog kennel is the type of use than can be accommodated with little impact on the surrounding area. A kennel can also be a real nuisance to the adjoining property owners if provisions are not made to control noise, sanitation, security, lighting, operating hours and parking.

Ms. Pope has operated the kennel and dog training facility for a number of years. This business has two primary missions. First, it operates as a boarding kennel that can accommodate up to 45 dogs. The second portion of the business is dog training. In most cases the animals that are being trained are not being boarded at the kennel. The dogs are brought to the site for training classes and then leave. Many different types of training are provided at this location. As with most successful businesses, it has grown over the years. As a result, additional buildings have been added to accommodate increased number of animals for boarding. A training ground has been graded and constructed and lighting has been added. While the business has grown so has the impact on the surrounding residents. The noise has increased over the years. The training ground has been in use more frequently. Parking for the training classes has been permitted in very close proximity to the neighbors. Competitions have been held at this site that attract other dogs and their trainers and pet owners to this site.

It is the opinion of staff that the growth of this business has had an increasing negative impact on the adjoining residents. However, staff is also of the opinion that the proposed use can be accommodated on the site with a decreased impact on the neighbors. First, and foremost, the staff will recommend the kennel buildings be relocated to a more central location on the site. At present, the kennels are located closer to the adjoining property owner's home than to Ms. Pope's dwelling. The kennels are presently located near the high point of the site. If the kennels are moved as recommended, they will be located at a lower elevation. This change in elevation along with the required landscaping and fencing will result in less noise leaving the site. Second, limiting the hours of operation of both the kennel and the training classes will reduce the amount of activity on the site which in turn will reduce the amount of time the dogs are active. Additionally, a well defined parking area will keep the activity away from the adjoining property owners.

The neighbors have stated throughout the review process that they have no desire to put Ms. Pope out of business. They have stated that their primary goal is to be able to enjoy being outside on their property without having to listen to the loud and prolonged barking of dogs. Simply stated they want a "little peace and quiet."

Staff believes that our recommendation will permit Ms. Pope to continue her business and it will permit the neighbors to enjoy a little tranquility.

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, SURROUNDING PROPERTY AND THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE

1. The proposed development will have minimal impact on local services since all required utilities are in place to serve this development.
2. The plan for the kennel and training facility as recommended by staff will decrease the negative impact on the surrounding property by increasing the distance between the kennels and the adjoining properties, by requiring plantings and fencing to further decrease noise levels, by adding fencing to improve security, by better defining the permitted parking areas and by limiting the hours of operation..

CONFORMITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE KNOX COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

1. As recommended the proposed kennel and training facility meet the requirements for approval in the A Agricultural Zone and all other relevant requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.
2. As recommended the proposed kennel and training facility is consistent with the general standards for uses permitted on review: The proposed development will be consistent with the adopted plans and policies of the General Plan and Sector Plan. The use will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance. The use will be compatible with the character of the neighborhood where it is proposed. The use will not significantly injure the value of adjacent property. .

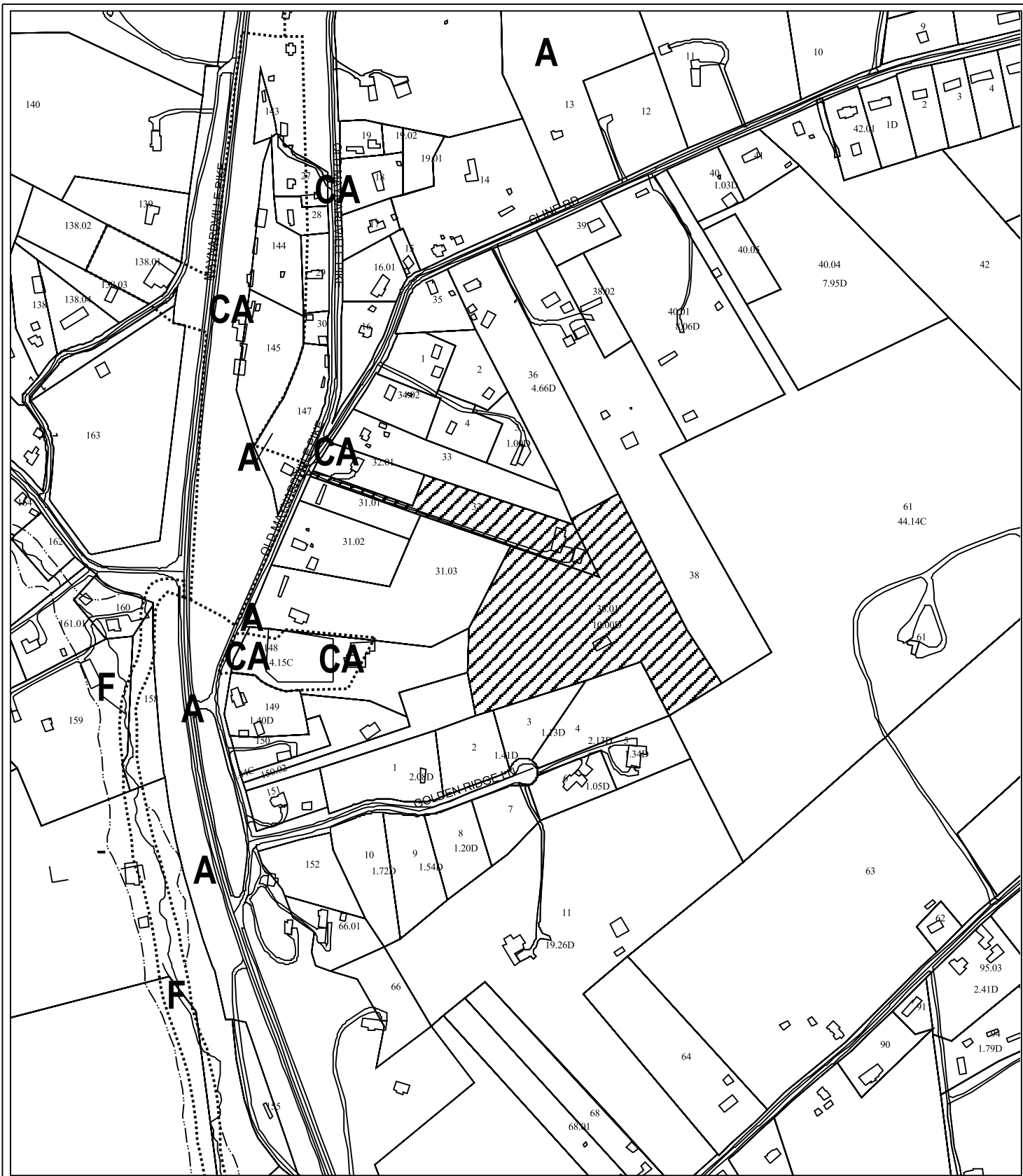
CONFORMITY OF THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPTED PLANS

1. The North County Sector Plan identifies this property as being within an agricultural / rural residential area.
2. The site is located within the Rural Area on the Knoxville-Knox County-Farragut Growth Policy Plan map.


ESTIMATED TRAFFIC IMPACT: Not calculated.

ESTIMATED STUDENT YIELD: Not applicable.

MPC's approval or denial of this request is final, unless the action is appealed to the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals. The date of the Knox County Board of Zoning Appeals hearing will depend on when the appeal application is filed. Appellants have 30 days to appeal an MPC decision in the County.



8-E-08-UR  
 USE ON REVIEW

 Dog kennel in A (Agricultural)

Original Print Date: 07/21/08    Revised:  
 Metropolitan Planning Commission \* City / County Building \* Knoxville, TN 37902

Petitioner: Byrd & Cooper Architects

Map No: 20

Jurisdiction: County



Exhibit A

1-2  
B-E-OB-UR  
9/20/08

**Operating procedures to reduce Noise:**

Open at 8:00 am. Dogs are never brought outside before 8:00 am.

Closed by 7:00 pm. Dogs are put inside and remain inside until morning

Limiting Business Hours:    Monday – Friday    8 am – 11 am    and    5 pm – 7 pm  
   Saturday                    8 am – 11 am  
   Sunday                      5 pm – 7 pm

Always checking a client in through the office to avoid disruption.

Limiting the number of dogs in play yards at one time.

Using Bark Collars when excessive barkers board. If parent won't agree, the dog cannot return for boarding.

**Changes already made to improve impact on neighbors:**

Permanent Roofs over outside kennels.

Bushes around all the outside kennels and around the outside of play yards.

Privacy fence between outside kennels and play yards.

Enforced policy of no cars, with dogs in them, parking along property boarder.

Separate small dog area

**Additional items proposed to neighbors to reduce sound but not accepted.**

Privacy fence along property boarder

Double lined boarder along privacy fence with Leland trees

Leland trees along property boarder on the training field side

Leland trees along entire play yards and immediate kennel area

Moving play yards to other side of kennel area

2-2

B-E-08 UR  
9/26/08

**Additional items owner will provide to reduce sound.**

Wood Privacy fence along closest property boarder

Leland trees along training field side of property boarder and close gap in existing fence  
(closes in the open drive)

Leland trees around the immediate kennel area.

Play yard relocated to opposite side from neighbors.





# APPALACHIAN K9 TRAINING CENTER

8324 OLD MAYNARDVILLE PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938  
865-922-7939

August 2008

### Metropolitan Planning Commission

This letter is written in reference to Appalachian K9 Training Center AK9 and owner Sandy Pope.

We, neighbors of AK9, owner Sandy Pope take this opportunity to express to the board that we support Sandy and her operating AK9 at this location. We are aware that the business is on the property and are happy she is doing something she loves to do.

Our hope is that you will grant her your blessings.

Sincerely,

Name (Printed and Signed), Address, and Phone Number

- Jenny Ruseca 6006 Clive Road 237-4356
- Charles Daugherty 6010 Clive Rd 922-6779
- Tim Pope 6014 Clive Rd 659 3169
- Alice Murray 6016 Clive Rd. 455-4875
- Chris & Angela Bedard 6014-A Clive Rd 922-2206
- Ruth & James Halbert 6015 Clive Rd. 922-2087
- Betty Buschman 6026 Clive Rd. 922-0496
- Claude & Marylow Smith 6034 Clive Rd. 922-2291



I don't mind D. Smith 6055 Market  
 Joe B. Bishop 8240 Maynardville F  
 Mary Lou Caldwell 8238 Maynardville  
 Rick  
 Bill Bishop 8240  
 Maynardville PH Knoxville TN 37938  
 John & Buffy Cox 5527 Golden Ridge Ln Knoxville, TN 37952  
 Nikita Gideon (Cynthia Gideon) Wood Clinic Rd. Knoxville, TN 379  
 BUDDY & ELAINE DANIELS - 5346 Golden Ridge Ln Knoxville, TN  
 WE KNOW SHE IS A WIDOW )  
 TRYING TO MAKE A LIVING FOR HERSELF ) SHE  
 IS NOT NO PROBLEM TO US.  
 James + Carlene Reagan 8234 Maynardville Hwy NO problems  
 Scott Matthews (Trustee Union Baptist Church)  
 Bob & Debbie Rose 7235 Reservoir (Union Baptist Church)  
 Jerry Wright & Tammy Wright UNION BAPTIST  
 Jeremy Swift UNION BAPTIST  
 Ashley Wright UNION BAPTIST  
 JEREMIAH WRIGHT UNION BAPTIST  
 Bill, Tammy & Caden Houck 5925 Tell Myratt Rd Knoxville, TN 37938  
 Raymond Beckfordell 5550 Golden Ridge Lane Knoxville, TN 37938

**Dave Head****To:** Grant Rosenberg**Subject:** RE: Dog Kennel - 8324 Old Maynardville Pk.

This afternoon, I visited Sandy Pope, owner of Appalachian K9 Training Center, at 8324 Old Maynardville Pike. Mrs. Pope explained to me that she's been in business at this location for the past eight years, focusing on boarding and obedience training. She has a current business license and gave Fountain City, Callahan, Halts and Crossroads vet clinics as contacts who can verify the conditions of any of the dogs she has brought in for care.

Mrs. Pope has 14 acres, which would allow her 30 animals on the property (Knox County Ordinance Sec 6-34). Mrs. Pope stated that on average, there are 20-25 dogs on the property at any given time. Full capacity would be 35 dogs, but she says it's usually around 25.

When I asked Mrs. Pope if she'd show me her facilities, she said she was a bit busy bathing a dog at the moment but that I was welcome to walk around alone and inspect the kennels. The kennels were immaculately clean.

The dogs at both buildings alert barked when they saw me, but only for a few minutes. Alert barking is not considered nuisance barking (Knox County Ordinance Sec 6-33). Mrs. Pope explained that to try to be a good neighbor she puts all the dogs inside their kennels at night (which are heated and air conditioned). She has blinded a fence and put up shrubbery in an attempt to keep her dogs from bothering neighbors.

Mrs. Pope was very open and forthright with all of my questions. Animal Control, she said, is welcome to make surprise inspections to verify that she is running a sound business. I found no violations at this place of business.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions for me.

Sincerely,  
Officer Frankie Byrne  
Knox County Animal Control

~~Original Message~~

**From:** Grant Rosenberg [mailto:grant.rosenberg@knoxcounty.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2008 10:48 AM  
**To:** Dave Head  
**Cc:** Crystal Lader  
**Subject:** Dog Kennel - 8324 Old Maynardville Pk.

Hi Dave,

Commissioner Dave Wright had a constituent contact him regarding a possible illegal kennel and noise issues at 8324 Old Maynardville Pk.

Can you please have an officer check this out and let me know what you find out?

Thanka!

Grant Rosenberg  
Deputy Director  
Office of Neighborhoods  
400 Main St, Suite 345  
Knoxville, TN 37902

5/22/2008

August 20, 2008



Mark Donaldson  
Knox County Commissioner  
Suite 403, City County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

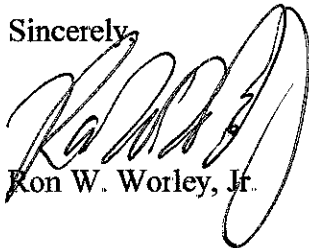
8-E-08-WR

Dear Metropolitan Planning Commissioner:

I am writing this letter in support of Sandy Pope and K-9 Training. I live approximately 2 miles from K-9 Training at 8015 Majors Road, Corryton, TN 37721. I have personally been a client of Sandy's for the past 1 ½ years, as she has trained and boarded my Chocolate Lab. Sandy has always operated a clean and safe business. Her operation fulfills a need for this area. I am requesting that her "Use on Review" will be granted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

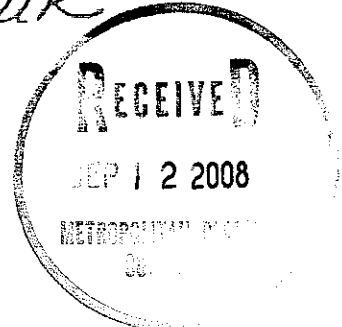


Ron W. Worley, Jr.

Marcus and Elizabeth Woodworth  
5425 Crestwood Road  
Knoxville, TN 37918

*8EDB-UR*

Metropolitan Planning Commission  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902



September 11, 2008

Dear Metropolitan Planning Commission:

We are writing in support of Appalachian K-9 Training Center. As long-time clients and animal lovers, we have consistently found Appalachian K-9 and Ms. Sandy Pope to provide the highest quality pet training and boarding services. Ms. Pope operates under the strictest standards of animal well being, cleanliness and genuine concern for dogs in her charge as well as their "pet parents". Ms. Pope and her training center have benefited the community at large, as well as countless families by instilling proper socialization, public behavior and "pet manners". This is an integral part of responsible citizenship and pet ownership.

On the recommendation of our veterinarian's office, we first began working with Appalachian K-9 for "Puppy Kindergarten" in 2003. Ms. Pope taught our family, as well as our dog how to live happily together with a dog in the home. She was so successful, we attended additional group classes where Ms. Pope stressed good canine citizenship and appropriate pet behavior in the community. She has even helped dogs and their owners train for the HABIT pet therapy program to work with patients in nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities.

Recently, Ms. Pope has assisted our family once again. After adopting two poorly socialized rescue dogs, Ms. Pope has retrained our two new pets to interact appropriately with our family and other animals in the community. Additionally, after boarding at Appalachian K-9, our pets have always returned happy, healthy and well loved; Ms. Pope always provides a detailed account of our dog's stay, including fun play-time and training activities.

In all our experiences through the years, Ms. Pope's facility has always demonstrated excellence in every way. She and her staff use current, compassionate and practical training techniques to help families and animals live happily together in the community. In the process of doing this, she exudes genuine concern for and compassion towards animals and families. She has always provided an immaculate environment for these animals and upholds the highest safety standards for all.

In summary, Appalachian K-9 and Ms. Pope are a tremendous asset to the Knoxville area. She has established a business built on genuine concern for animals and their successful participation in the community. Her business maintains the highest quality standards and benefits all associated. Appalachian K-9 is a tremendous asset to the Knox County citizens and it is my sincere opinion that she should continue to provide this incredible and valuable service.

Sincerely,

*Marcus Woodworth*

Marcus Woodworth

*Elizabeth Woodworth*

Elizabeth Woodworth

**From:** Buz Johnson  
**To:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Date:** 8/26/2008 2:59:35 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fw: AK9 needs your help - from s.watson

FYI: 8-E-08-UR  
Buz

>>> "Susan Watson" <susanwatson26@bellsouth.net> 8/26/2008 10:06 AM >>>  
hi buz and gretchen.... here's some info from a friend of mine (rose marie mitchell) who is concerned about the place where she takes her pets. it's a great business - been there for 6-7 years - suddenly, when the kennel owner's husband died, this one neighbor is having a fit over it. it's apparently coming before mpc - my friend is wondering how/why it's gone that far. she asked me to see if any of my old mpc crowd could give me any info about what this lady should do to prepare herself - what is going to be decided that day, etc. apparently she's under the impression that the business is all properly zoned, etc. and it's just this one guy being a pain. could you let me know what/why this is on the agenda - like if she's really at fault somehow, or if this is just a formality to get the neighbor to hush? thanks. hope you guys are doing well. i'm staying busy with newspaper stuff, but real estate is pretty pathetic right now. let me know what you find out! thanks! love, susan w.

----- Original Message -----

From: Spangler, Rose M.  
To: Susan Watson  
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2008 8:32 AM  
Subject: FW: AK9 needs your help

Here ya go Susan!! Thanks so much for your help on this! I hope it helps! Sandy is such sweet, nice lady and like we were talking about last night it sounds as if this person that's causing this trouble for her just wants to be a big problem guy in the neighborhood. I didn't tell you as well, but Sandy is also a foster parent that has helped many kids get a second chance at some things. She's very open-minded but doesn't take crap off anybody either. She also has a little handicap of a limp. One leg is shorter than the other (born with a hip problem) yet she could run circles around the both of us!! Her place is always so immaculate, organized, clean, etc..... I truly don't know how she does it----really! As you can read in her letter, all of this seemed to have started just shortly after her husband died, so it's obvious this guy is a pain in the you know what!!!

Anyway, let me know what you find out!! Thanks a million!!! And all the furry critters out there thanks you too! Because she keeps the best kennel around! I'd even sleep in there!!

Love ya! Rose

-----  
From: Sandy Pope [<mailto:dobermanlady@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 2:43 PM  
To: Spangler, Rose M.  
Subject: AK9 needs your help

Dear Friends,

This letter is to ask for your help.

After being in business for six years our kennel has received a complaint from a neighbor about the noise it projects. Our first complaint came just over one year ago. Only three months after the loss of my husband to an auto accident. We met with the neighbor and we agreed on plans to help remedy the complaint. Over the last year these are the plans we were able to accomplish; placed covers over the outside kennels, built privacy fence on neighbors side of kennel area, fenced in play yards, completely fenced in kennel area, planted hedges completely around kennel area, changed business hours to restrict the disruption of dogs boarding, stopped parking along property line, always making sure dogs are put up and put out at a decent hour, asking parents of excessive barking dogs their permission to use a bark collar. The one plan that still remains to be completed is another privacy fence along property line. Despite our efforts this neighbor remains unhappy.

This past May we received a letter from the Mayors office requiring us to apply for a "use on review". Since then we have received five visits from Knox County Animal Control, who found no infractions. Then a visit from the Knox County Health Dept., who gave us a verification letter which states we operate within their requirements, Next was telling the neighbors that their home value was going to be affected, they would not be able to sell their homes, that we were running a illegal business. We then provided him with my business license. The last issue was that we didn't have a building permit for our kennel buildings. Our buildings are not permanent therefore we did not need one. Please help me defend myself.

Our hearing with the MPC is scheduled for Sept 11, 2008 at 1:30. We really need your support to write the members of the MPC and share with them your opinions on why you feel AK9 should be allowed to stay in business. The contact information for each member of the commission is attached. Should you wish to mail or fax your letter....

Metropolitan Planning Commission  
City/County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902  
Phone: 215-2500 / Fax: 215-2068

Should anyone be interested in attending please do. The more support the better. The hearings start at 1:30, however we are not sure when our case will be heard.

Thank you in advance

Sandy Pope

----- Original Message -----

From: "Spangler, Rose M." <[RSpangle@mc.utmck.edu](mailto:RSpangle@mc.utmck.edu)>

To: [dobermanlady@yahoo.com](mailto:dobermanlady@yahoo.com)

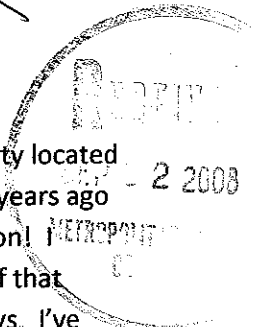
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2008 1:02:39 PM

Subject: Rose Marie Mitchell's e-mail

Here ya go! We'll be in touch...

RM

8-E-08-UR



To all Metropolitan Planning Commissioners~

I am writing this letter on behalf of Sandy Pope and Appalachian K-9 Training Center, property located on Old Maynardville Pike, outside the Halls Community. I met Sandy Pope approximately 5 years ago when she was recommended to me for training a puppy. What an excellent recommendation! I attended Puppy Kindergarten with my young dog and couldn't be happier with the results of that training. Since that time, I've had the opportunity to stay in touch with Sandy in various ways. I've worked with Sandy at the kennel, I've attended several of the club's training sessions, I've been around each and every dog Sandy owns, I've bought two dogs from Sandy and I've boarded all of my dogs at Sandy's.

The changes, in the kennel, during the past 5 years, have been phenomenal. Sandy has spent time and money in untold amounts to make the business as wonderful as it is today. It is my understanding that a couple of neighbors have complained about noise from the kennel, although the majority of the neighbors have NO complaints. Sandy has addressed this problem in every reasonable way that she could. I have watched this woman work from 7am to 9pm many days, week in and week out. She has put her heart and soul into her business every day for all the years I've known her. Is it fair to punish Sandy and the business that she's grown, for a couple of neighbors who have waited 6 years to complain? There are so many people, even here in Knoxville, who sit and do nothing but collect welfare while Sandy works, at the very least, 98 hours per week! I challenge each and every one of you to spend just one day with Sandy working and then see if you can find fault with her business.

There are so many people who rely on Sandy for the care of their pets. The commission would certainly be doing the community a disservice if they were to make it unreasonable for Sandy to continue in business. Sandy is more to the community than an owner of a boarding kennel. She has been active in the community by teaching children about dogs at several local schools. She has also worked with a local Assisted Living facility to put on a dog program. I have complete respect for Sandy, the way she teaches, and the care with which she boards animals. The community would do well to have a few hundred more Sandy's out there working as hard as she does!

Thank you for allowing me to write this in support of Sandy and Appalachian K-9. I certainly feel you would be doing the right thing to let this matter rest, and let Sandy continue her business.

Sincerely,

*Julie Tallent* 8/28/08  
Julie Tallent

488 Black Fox Harbor

Washburn, TN 37888



**From:** Dan Kelly  
**To:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Date:** 9/15/2008 10:43:39 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: AK9 Letter

>>> Sandy Pope <dobermanlady@yahoo.com> 09/09 8:52 AM >>>  
From: Patricia Sullivan <trishtoothdoc@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Re: Fw: A K9 Needs your help...  
To: [coleanthonye@yahoo.com](mailto:coleanthonye@yahoo.com)  
Date: Monday, September 8, 2008, 7:21 PM

Dear Sandy,

I received your letter about the numerous complaints and the difficult situation your neighbor has put you in. I remember when I, myself, a single mom, was targeted by my own neighbor in Halls to cut down several trees on my property line that were shading my neighbors' flower garden. It was interesting that they did not harass me about this issue until my ex-husband was out of the picture, as is a similarity in your case. Not only have you been an incredible friend to me over the past 8 years, but you have allowed and entrusted me to help you grow your business. Not only have you been the authority in which I have seeked opinions on dog care and training, but you have also been the most trusted friend and confidant on children and family issues. I know no other individual in this entire area in which I would trust my three precious dogs, Dave (a French Bulldog), Buster (a Chocolate Lab) and Maxie (an English Bulldog) for the three

weeks every year that I savor for my vacation. I never have to worry that they are in incompetant hands. I have the peace of mind to relax and enjoy my vacations knowing that any complication that should arrise, Sandy Pope, owner of Appalachian K9, will take as good of care of my dogs as well as myself, if not even better. They have never come home harmed, and as a matter of fact, Maxie came home from her last visit at Appalachian K9 better behaved, than before she was dropped off. If anyone were to have any concern about this business, I emplore them to contact me, Dr. Trish Sullivan, at 865-494-2740. As a fellow business owner and health care provider, I will gladly attest to the character, professionalism and genuinity of Sandy Pope, owner of Appalachian K9.

Sincerely,

Trish Sullivan, DDS

8-E-08-UR

REC'D

SEP 7 2008

METROPOLITAN  
COUNTY

September 7, 2008

Metropolitan Planning Commission  
Attention, Dan Kelly

Members of the Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission:

It has been brought to our attention that the Metropolitan Planning Commission has received a complaint about Appalachian K-9 Kennels (AK9), a business located in northern Knox County at 8324 Old Maynardville Pike. This business is owned and managed by Ms. Sandy Pope. When we acquired a very energetic Labrador retriever puppy about two years ago, our trusted long-time veterinarian Dr. Rai Kaur Khalsa recommended AK9, and Ms. Pope for obedience training. Since that time, our family and indeed the entire neighborhood through which we daily walk our (now) two large Labrador retrievers, have benefited from the guidance and training we have received from Ms. Pope and her well-qualified and very professional staff. We have benefited from several of the services provided by AK9, including individual obedience training classes, group obedience classes (and although our dogs are well behaved and have had no behavior issues we periodically participate in these classes as refreshers for ourselves and our dogs), and have many times used AK9's boarding services.

The AK9 staff is very professional and caring. In the group obedience classes, the staff is careful to ask questions that allow them to evaluate each dog's home situation, the owner's lifestyle and physical abilities and they then provide appropriate recommendations to address any behavior issues that may arise. The testimonial to the abilities of the staff who facilitate these group classes is evident as I have observed groups of 8-10 dogs of various sizes and personalities, all sitting quietly (in close proximity) by their owners, waiting for their owner's next command.

We do not know of another similar facility in our part of Knox County where we would feel comfortable leaving our dogs for boarding and be assured that they would be well taken care of if AK9 was not located where it is. We have recommended AK9 to others who have, in turn, passed along this recommendation to other pet-owners. Requiring AK9 to move their facilities would put an unfair financial burden on the owner.

Too many stories exist these days about dogs with bad "manners". AK9's staff has helped us and countless other families learn to interact with dogs with the result that our entire neighborhood and neighborhoods of the other families have benefited. Partly because of the beauty of Knox County, residential development is inevitable and frequently results in conflicts. To be easily accessible to a metropolitan area like Knox County, almost anywhere a facility like AK9 is located someone will be unhappy, which is certainly what the present complaint is about. However, in your effort to provide fair

consideration of the present complaint against AK9, please balance the many benefits AK9 provides to dog owners and neighbors of dog owners throughout Knox County when you consider asking this business to make costly changes to their facility based on a single complaint.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Peggy W. and John R. Shute  
3717 Thrall Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37918

**John Shaw, D.V.M.**

244 BRISBANE ROAD • OAK RIDGE, TN 37830 • 483-1334

8-E-08-UR

August 21, 2008

Re: Sandy Pope

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been my pleasure to associate with Sandy Pope for over 14 years. During this time I have cared for her pets and have referred pets to her for training and help with behavioral problems.

During the time of my association with Mrs. Pope, the care she has provided for her own pets and for those entrusted to her has been exemplary. Her facility is scrupulously clean with attention paid to the welfare of the animals and to the responsibility of being a good neighbor. Were Mrs. Pope to be unable to conduct business in her present fashion, the loss would not only be hers but to the animal community and the pet owning public.

Mrs. Pope has been of invaluable assistance in providing education to new pet owners and helping to deal with problem behaviors in dogs, particularly to those dogs which are of working breeds. Rather than being a nuisance to neighbors, Sandy Pope is an asset to her community.

Thank You,

John K. Shaw, DVM

jks/tmr



*"Doing our Best for your Pet"*

992-7929 FAX

# APPALACHIAN K-9 TRAINING CENTER

8324 OLD MAYNARDVILLE PIKE  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37938  
(865) 922-7929 OR [DOBERMANLADY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:DOBERMANLADY@YAHOO.COM)

August 2008

Metropolitan Planning Commission:

This letter is written to reference Appalachian K9 Training Center, AK9, and owner Sandy Pope.

It has been our experience with the facilities at AK9 offers a comfortable kennel space. The kennel is kept clean. The kennel area and property are well maintained. The pets are well supervised, provided for with proper food and plenty of water and kept in a safe environment. Although all pets are treated with care, special care is given when needed. AK9 staff administers meds, give extra feeding times for puppies, and special attention for the elderly or those with separation anxiety.

AK9 and staff have always presented themselves in a friendly and professional manner. AK9 and staff are also able to offer training and behavior advice.

We would without reservation recommend AK9.

Sincerely, (please sign and print your name, and your address)

*Tammy Rains* Tammy Rains 272 F24 Creek Ln. Caryville TN 37714

*Jodi Wilson* Jodi Wilson 128 Ward Rd. Kingsba TN 37163

*Melissa Webb* Melissa Webb 168 Outer Dr. Oak Ridge TN 37830

*William Stewart* 269 South Benedict Oak Ridge

*Staff @ Ideal Vet Hosp*

Form 378

**From:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Subject:** Appalachian K9 Training Center

>>> Dan Kelly 9/2/2008 1:50:58 PM >>>

>>> "Ralph L. Schwarzkopf" <[rschwarzkopf@comcast.net](mailto:rschwarzkopf@comcast.net)> 09/01 3:57 PM >>>

Forgive the previous missfire! Sandy has worked very hard to be a good neighbor and she deserves a break. I know she will work with you.

\_\_\_\_\_

September 1, 2008

Mr. Dan Kelly

Re: Appalachian K9 Training Center

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We have been customers and friends of Sandy Pope, owner of Appalachian K9 Training Center, for over three years. This letter is to show our support of AK9, and to ask for YOUR support in helping her keep this truly wonderful kennel open.

Our dog, Sophie, was adopted at the Young-Williams animal shelter. She had been abused and trusted no one. The moment she and Sandy met, they were instant friends. We would hate to leave Sophie anywhere but at AK9.

Many of our neighbors use AK9, and we would be devastated if the MPC forces them to close their doors.

You just have to go out to the kennel to see what a jewel we have in North Knoxville.

Thank you for all you do for our city.

Sincerely,

Chris and Ralph Schwarzkopf  
7943 Ember Crest Trail  
Knoxville, TN 37938  
(865)922-0711

**From:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Subject:** MPC File Number: 8-E-08-UR

>>> Danny Rose <danny-rose@hotmail.com> 9/30/2008 1:25:13 PM >>>

Metropolitan Planning Commissioners and Staffers:

This letter is in regards to Appalachian K9 and its MPC Use on Review of a dog kennel on 14 acres of land zoned Agriculture (MPC File Number: 8-E-08-UR).

I too have a story about Sandy Pope, Appalachian K9 and her training club, but I think that words would diminish the effect her passions have had on me. My hope is that all the wonderful letters of support will give the commission some insight into what kind of businesswoman and person she is. I will add only one personal note in that she has had such a great impact on me that I have dedicated the last few years of free time to learning how to dog train and now spend as much time as possible as a volunteer at her facility. My intentions are truly selfish because I too want to be a part of touching peoples' lives like she does.

Besides her professional and personal effects on our community, there is a larger economic impact that her business and training club has on this community, and this past weekend (September 27th and 28th of this year) is a good example of one such event. Her facility hosted the 2008 Schnauzer Festival where people flew in to Knoxville from all over the world. There were judges from Germany and competitors from as far away as California, Connecticut and Illinois. Over 30 hotel rooms were booked by out of town competitors and guests. Many arrived in town late Thursday and did not leave until Sunday afternoon. By Sunday, many competitors were already lobbying to bring the event back to Sandy's place as soon as their club rules would allow. Other events similar to this one are held a few times a year.

I am obviously biased in my opinion, but this seems like a lot to do for nothing.... Appalachian K9 is zoned properly, has the proper business license, pays taxes, has been inspected by the health department (and passed), and Animal Control on several occasions (with no issues filed by the inspecting officers). She has the complete support from all surrounding neighbors (including the neighboring church, who has services during drop-off and pick-up times) except for the one that is complaining and his friend (by the way, no complaints were lodged by either neighbor for years, this only happened after Sandy's husband passed away in a tragic accident).

Sandy Pope is a single mom and small business woman who is only trying to raise her daughter (and put her through college) and not lose her home after her husband passed away. She is passionate about what she does and how she does it. She is independent and self-reliant. She does not depend on the government to survive, but pays taxes to help others that may even be more fortunate than she is.

Please vote to end this and allow Sandy to get back to what she does best.

Sincerely,  
Daniel P. Rose

**From:** "hkrose" <hkrose@bellsouth.net>  
**To:** <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 8/24/2008 8:50:25 PM  
**Subject:** File #8-E-08-UR

We are writing concerning the "use on review" process for Appalachian K-9.

My husband and I have become good friends with Sandy Pope over the last several years. We first met her through our son who was training his dog at Appalachian K-9. We had several dogs prior to this, when our children were younger, and probably did not do well by them as we never sought training for them. When we observed what our son's dog could do with training we were amazed. Subsequently our other children have adopted dogs and utilized Sandy to train and guide them. We have spent many hours on her property and can speak honestly on what we have observed.

Sandy is meticulous in the upkeep of her kennels whether with her own dogs or those she boards. There is only one way to do things and that is the right way. I have been so impressed by the operation that she runs. My grandchildren and their friends love to go to Sandy's and NEVER have we had any reason to feel unsafe. Sandy not only teaches responsible dog ownership but she practices it every day.

My grandson wanted to spend time at Sandy's last summer to help with the yard and garden. He was however very much afraid of Doberman's. With Sandy's careful instruction and guidance he gained knowledge and respect for these dogs and all the dogs that she boards. He grew to love so many of them. It was a fantastic growing experience. She not only is amazing with dogs but this young man gained such confidence and he will never forget that time.

Sandy's husband Ron was killed in an auto accident in January 2007. Soon after his death her neighbor chose to initiate his complaints. Although still grieving the death of her husband she met with her neighbor and listened to his concerns. They agreed to some changes to alleviate his concerns. I honestly have never seen anyone work harder than Sandy to accomplish the improvements. She added additional fencing, planted shrubs for sound and privacy, altered parking, restructured business hours and on and on. Her final goal of putting up a perimeter privacy fence remains a top priority.

Sandy is well known in her field and has been working hard for the past eight years to build her business. She provides a necessary resource in the community. Sandy has rehabilitated and trained so many dogs in this area. Her advise is sought after by veterinarians and clients



alike. Sandy also volunteers with our schools and other venues to increase knowledge and education about responsible care and treatment of animals.

It pains me to think that one person can bring so much sorrow and distress. This is not only Sandy Pope's livelihood and means of support for herself and her daughter but a valuable resource and support system for the community. She is contributing to the betterment of her community at large and should be commended for what she does. Surely this should be recognized in Knoxville.

Hank Rose

Kathy Rose

**From:** Dan Kelly  
**To:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Date:** 9/25/2008 8:25:30 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: 8-E-08-UR

>>> <Ravenwood7600@aol.com> 09/25 7:09 AM >>>

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I understand that both my name and that of my father, Kenneth Roop, were brought up at Monday's mediation meeting between Sandy Pope and Kenny Widner. I would like to clarify a few things.

My father is acquainted with Mr. Widner because he is an employee of the church Mr. Widner attends. Contrary to Mr. Widner's assertion, however, my father does not consider Kenny Widner to be a friend.

Further, I have neither met nor ever spoken with Mr. Widner.

Sandy Pope, however, is a different story. I consider Sandy to be a close friend and a very honest and helpful person. I routinely refer both overflow clients to her kennel for boarding, and also troubled "pet parents" to her for expert training. She has cared for my own pets; and also I have participated in many training classes at her facility. I am very particular about the care of both my own pets as well as those of my clients, and would never entrust their care to anyone in whom I did not have full confidence. Sandy has repeatedly earned such confidence and trust.

Sandy not only provides stellar professional boarding and training services to her own clients, but also makes our community safer by helping rescue organizations assess the temperament and behavioral problems of adoptable pets.

In this way, animals who might otherwise have lost their lives find loving homes; and many families have escaped injury and heartache by understanding and better controlling their pets' behavior. She is truly an asset to our profession and the Knoxville community.

I know firsthand the issues involved with running a boarding kennel business. It would be very easy to be a "bad neighbor," given the noise and waste issues. That's why this business isn't for everyone. It takes someone who is hard working, compassionate and sensitive to the needs of others. Sandy exhibits these qualities to her clients, boarders and neighbors every day. And is a very good neighbor.

Additionally, Sandy has also shown these qualities in the way she has dealt with Mr. Widner. I have witnessed the numerous steps she has taken to address his complaints.. As I said, I've never met Mr. Widner; but it seems to me that the more Sandy complies, the more he complains.

I hope this clarifies any statements made about me and my father by Mr. Widner at Monday's meeting. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cheri Roop

Ravenwood Boarding Kennels

865-922-9641

865-805-1439 personal cell

**From:** <strobins01@comcast.net>  
**To:** <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 9/8/2008 8:04:24 PM

September 6, 2008

To: MPC

From: Sandra Robinson  
P.O. Box 313  
Norris, TN 37828

I find myself at a loss,.....the thought of writing to you to try to keep a viable business going. AK9 is one of the best run and managed facility's that I have ever been to. We have three lab's of our own. Sandy has not only trained, but also on several occasions we have boarded our dogs with her. We first met Sandy when we bought our first lab a little over six years ago. After going through training and experiencing our dogs being boarded there, not only would we never consider boarding at a Vet, we could never find anyone who takes such good care of our dogs. Sandy runs a very professional business and is always seeking ways to improve things for the dogs and their respective owners.

To even think that she is having to defend her business, is ridiculous. She has the proper business license, has been through several visits from Knox County Animal Control and the Knox County Health Dept, followed by a letter from them stating that she is operating within their requirements.

It seems to me instead of having to worry about going to court to STAY in business, the MPC should be searching ways to help and promote a minority, woman owned and operated business.

And why is it that after all this time, suddenly a neighbor is being disturbed. Who is really being harassed here?

Sandy has a top notch business that she has worked very hard for and has built a great reputation for her training and boarding. She is well known in the Veterinary community.

Please put your support behind her, she deserves it!

Thank you.

**From:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter in regards to AK9 - Sandy Pope - Use on Review

>>> "Heather Roberto, AnovaNet" <hroberto@anovanet.com> 9/2/2008 11:23:30 AM >>>  
September 2, 2008

Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC)  
City/County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 3790  
Phone: 215-2500 / Fax: 215-2068

Dear Sir or Madam:

The matter concerning Sandy Pope, and the "use on review" of the business, AK9, has been brought to my attention. It is my understanding that the committee is reviewing AK9 on September 11th, at 1:30PM.

As a concerned citizen, I would like to ask the MPC to please review and consider my statements listed below prior to that meeting as they relate to AK9 business and its effect on the overall community of Knox County.

\* First and foremost, I am a dog owner and have trained with dog facilities from California to New York City, and I can confirm the high quality training and community support that Sandy Pope and AK9 provides Knox County. During my training at the AK9 facility I have never experienced any excessive noise, disruption or unsecured dogs on the facility. Sandy Pope has always appeared proactive in making AK9 a safe and secure place for boarding and training.

\* Second (and most important) I would like the committee to understand the impacts to community safety should MPC decide to close down AK9. Picture for a moment the hundreds of people over the six years of business, who have brought their dogs to AK9 for training - picture the amount of dogs who have learned through the training techniques of AK9 and benefited from the facility (availability) and are titled as Canine Good Citizens (recognized by the AKC and courts of law as responsible pet ownership) - meaning these dogs are deemed safe and good canine citizens of Knox County. Closing down AK9 is closing down Knox County's premier venue for citizens to train and uphold Responsible Dog Ownership. By closing AK9, the MPC will be sending a strong message to the Knox County community; responsible pet ownership is not valued in Knox County. In time this will have an overall effect on public safety in Knox County, this effects all citizens not just to the citizens who own dogs.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes, "State legislatures began recognizing the CGC program as a means of advocating responsible dog ownership and 34 states now have Canine Good Citizen resolutions. In a little over one decade, the Canine Good Citizen Program has begun to have an extremely

positive impact in many of our communities. This is a program that can help us assure that the dogs we love will always be welcomed and well-respected members of our communities." Sandy Pope (AK9) is a registered CGC Evaluator and provides the training and certifications for this prestigious and universally recognized canine certification.

\* Third, from my understanding Sandy Pope has made her best effort to appease the complainant's demands on her business operations. AK9 is Sandy Pope's means of making a living. Any action against AK9 directly affect Sandy Pope means of making a living. We are not just talking about closing down a business; we are discussing ending a person's means of making an honest living.

In summary, I would like to ask the MPC to strongly look at alternative mediation options, and allow Sandy Pope and AK9 to continue its operation and positive contribution to Knox County. The committee's decision does not just affect two neighbors - it affects all of the responsible dog owners and future dogs/owners that have dedicated their time and energy with their pets in being positive contributors to Knox County.

Please continue to allow Sandy Pope and AK9 to continue their business operations.

Sincerely,  
Heather A. Roberto  
Knox County Resident  
[hroberto@anovanet.com](mailto:hroberto@anovanet.com)  
Cell: 1-860-617-1778  
Fax: 1-866-489-4063  
[www.anovanet.com](http://www.anovanet.com)  
Anovanet.jpg

**From:** <dmc321@aol.com>  
**To:** <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 8/28/2008 2:14:06 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sandy Pope - AK9 Closing

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

I am sending this to ask your approval for AK9 to remain open. If you have not been out to this establishment you should make a trip to see for yourself. Sandy has met all possible and some almost impossible requirements. Her permits and licenses are up to date and all are in order. The property on which AK9 is located is clean and well kept. The decision to close AK9 should not be left up to one person who said move it or lose it.

Please do not let one crazy person ruin a wonderful service run by a caring person. Sandy is trying to make a difference by doing a service for people with dogs that are in need of training and care. Closing Ak9 would be a detrimental loss to the community.

Thank you for taking time to read my request.

Nora F.  
?

**From:** Rebecca Mosenthal <rebecca\_k9@hotmail.com>  
**To:** <bartcarey@comcast.net>, <avc524@aol.com>, <md4ktn2u@aol.com>, <gewart@georgeewart.com>, <grafhomes@aol.com>, <makane1@bellsouth.net>, <anders@holstongases.com>, <tbenefield@benefieldrichters.com>, <cole5137@bellsouth.net>, <s.johnson692@gmail.com>, <rebeccalongmire@hotmail.com>, <npavlis@chartercom.com>, <wstowers@stowerscat.com>, <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 8/18/2008 12:21:24 AM  
**Subject:** Use Review Board

I would like to voice my opinion on the upcoming Use on Review Board for Appalachian K9 Training Center. I used to live in Knoxville and enjoyed having a clean and reliable place to keep my dog and they also helped me train my dog who was on the verge of being sent to the animal shelter. I know that the owner Sandy Pope recently lost her husband and that kennel is her only income. I hope that the board will consider the contributions that is making to the community.

Rebecca Mosenthal 210-771-2429

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Metropolitan Planning Commission  
City/County Building  
400 Main St.  
Knoxville, TN. 37902

August 25, 2008

Re: Appalachian K9 hearing on Sept. 11, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand you are meeting on September 11, 2008 to determine whether or not Appalachian K9 should be allowed to remain in business. In my opinion, it would be a substantial loss to our community to lose such a place.

My husband and I purchased a female Doberman from an out of state breeder in 2005. On the recommendation of our veterinarians office, we decided to use Sandy Pope at Appalachian K9 for our training needs. We began with Sandys "kindergarten" class which is a 6 week, one on one training. We then signed up for group training which generally contains approx. 10 dogs and their owners and takes place on the training field.

I recently rescued another Doberman that, I suspect, has been neglected and abused. The attention, care and facilities that had been provided for my female were exceptional so naturally I looked to Sandy for assistance with my rescue. I have only had him for a few months and am making great progress thanks to A-K9. It is imperative that he have a facility available for training and socialization to insure he can become a good member of our community. It is just as important that I can board him with someone that I can trust and has experience with large breeds. With A-K9, I can deal directly with the owner, Sandy Pope, rather than someone that was hired right out of high school who may not know how to handle large dogs or dogs that have been abused.

Most dogs that end up in an animal shelter are there for behavioral problems that with proper training would not have been an issue. I hear stories all too often of animal abuse, neglect, fighting..... of which the community ultimately becomes responsible for and rather than close Appalachian K9, we should be recommending the services that are offered to our friends, family and associates.

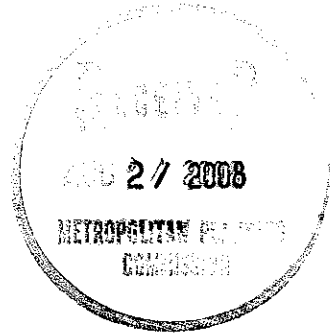
I ask you to allow A-K9s doors to remain open. It is all too rare to find a truly genuine person who is also looking out for our pets needs rather than selfishly looking out only for herself. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sean & Angie Mills  
Knoxville, TN.



# Mendenhall Design



865.602.7701 • FAX 865.909.0340 • 6723 DUNCAN'S GLEN DRIVE • KNOXVILLE, TN 37919

August 25, 2008

8-E-08-UR

RE: MPC Use-on-Review Hearing, Appalachian K-9 Training, Sept. 11

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

I am writing to show my support for Sandy Pope, Appalachian K-9 Training in the upcoming review hearing.

There seems to be a complaint, beginning about a year ago, from one neighbor on noise. A plan was agreed upon and the owner, Sandy Pope, has been working to complete all items in the plan - these items included building fences, placing covers on kennels, planting hedges, and limiting business hours to cut down on noise. Sandy has obviously made every effort to please this neighbor.

Sandy is one of the most caring and responsible person I know. She is truly an asset to this community. I trust her implicitly with the care of my dog and if she is not allowed to continue in business I, along with many other people, will be at a loss at who to turn to for dog training and boarding of this caliber. **This business is her livelihood, I ask that you please allow her to continue providing the excellent training and boarding she has for the past six years.**

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Mendenhall".

Cheryl Mendenhall

9/4/08

Nick and Susan Martino  
6430 Honeywood Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37918

8-E-08-LIR

SEP 3 2008

Commissioners  
Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
Suite 403, City/County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

Dear Commissioners:

My wife and I are writing this letter to show our support for continued and unaltered operations of the Appalachian K-9 Training Center (AK9) located at 8324 Old Maynardville Pike; run by Ms Sandy Pope. We have lived and worked in the Knoxville area for 3 and a half years and are active members in the community. We hope that you will take the time to thoroughly review our comments and carefully consider them as part of the decision making process for the review of property usage.

We have been clients of AK9 for over 2 years. We have used a significant amount of the services, for our Labrador Retriever including puppy training, adult group training, boarding, and good citizen training. In addition, Ms Pope has provided us consultation, on her own time, for the special needs of our dog when it suffered a tragic leg injury.

All of the training Ms Pope offers have been extremely successful in obtaining obedience with our dog. Her classes teach owners to be responsible, caring, and respectful of their pets. The benefits from the training services offered are not only a benefit to dog owners but to the entire Knox County community.

In addition to Ms Pope's classes, we also use AK9's boarding facilities approximately ten times a year. The facilities are always immaculately clean, environmentally controlled, and sufficiently spacious. Because of our multitude of uses for these facilities and services, we have been at the property during various times and on different days of the week. We have never witnessed the place loud or disturbing. This includes visits during large group classes held outdoors and peak boarding check in/out times during Holidays.

Throughout the last two years, Ms Pope has been proactive in making significant improvements in the way the business is run. She has reduced her business hours and built additional indoor facilities in order to be a responsible neighbor.

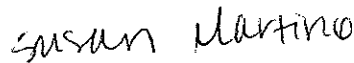
Due to our positive experience with AK9 we were amazed and concerned to hear the use of the property would be placed under review. The services offered by this business are an asset not only to area dog owners but to the entire Knoxville metro community. Loss of or a change to this business would be a tragedy for the community.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide our thoughts for your consideration and thank you for taking the time to review them. Please let us know if there is any other information that we could provide that would be beneficial in making your decision to keep AK9 in business.

Sincerely,



Nick Martino  
Assistant Operations Manager  
Enriched Uranium Operations  
Y-12 National Security Complex  
Oak Ridge, TN  
Day Phone: 241-7316  
Evening Phone: 687-0529



Susan Martino  
Director of Special Events  
Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee  
Knoxville, TN  
Day Phone: 521-0000  
Evening Phone: 687-0529

**From:** Dan Kelly  
**To:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Date:** 9/25/2008 9:13:05 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Support of Sandy Pope and Appalachian K9

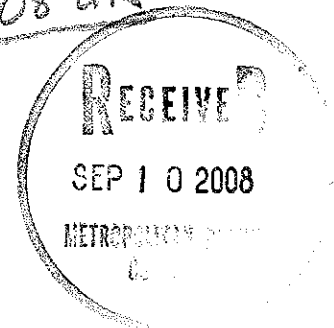
>>> Linda Marion <lindapmarion@yahoo.com> 09/22 11:43 AM >>>

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I'm writing in support of Sandy Pope and her Appalachian K-9 training and boarding facility. My husband and I have used her boarding and grooming services for six years and have always appreciated the professionalism, kindness, and top service attitude Sandy has shown us and our much-loved dog. Her facilities have grown in quality and services over the years, especially as she has striven to be self-supporting since the untimely death of her husband a couple of years ago. Throughout this expansion, she has maintained the utmost concern for her neighbors, her clients, and their pets. We tried other boarding facilities before discovering Sandy and App K-9 and now would take our pet nowhere else (unless forced to during Sandy's rare absence) for boarding and grooming. She deeply loves the animals and her clients and would do nothing to hurt or disturb anyone. Plus, it appears she has gone above and beyond to accomodate the concerns of her neighbor.

Sandy operates a caring, professional business--please don't punish her (and, indeed, all of her clients) for trying to offer the community such an important and humane service. Thank you,  
Linda P. Marion, 2909 Fountain Park Blvd. Knoxville 37917

8-E-08-UR



September 9, 2008

Metropolitan Planning Commission  
City/County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

RE: Appalachian K9 Training Center  
Sandy Pope, owner/operator  
8324 Old Maynardville Pike, Knoxville, TN 37938

To the Members of the Planning Commission:

I am writing this letter in response to the "use on review" hearing for Appalachian K9 Training Center coming before the planning commission this week. Sandy Pope has been in business operating her kennel and training center for six years. I depend on her services when I go out of town to board my pet. She runs a first-rate facility and is a reputable business woman. The government agencies that have evaluated her facility have found no infractions. She holds a valid license to operate and should have every right to run her business in its present location.

It is strange that for six years she has been in business but now she is being called into question. She has received no complaints until just over a year ago and she has done all within her power to appease the complainant and alleviate his concerns. As you review this issue, I ask you to please consider her efforts and her business record. I feel Ms. Pope is an asset to our community. I hope you feel the same

Sincerely,

Nora King

/kb

**From:** Rai Kaur Khalsa <vmd3ho@comcast.net>  
**To:** <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 8/21/2008 12:33:26 PM  
**Subject:** Appalachian K-9 Training Center Support

To All Members of the Knoxville Metropolitan Planning Commission:

As the proprietor of Fountain City Animal Hospital for nearly thirty years, I have a special interest in the continued operation of the Appalachian K-9 Training Center, owned and operated by Ms. Sandy Pope. It has come to my attention that her business has been under attack for the last year, and that despite all her multiple and costly efforts to mitigate specific problems expressed to her, one complainant is still not satisfied and she has received a "Use on Review" notice from the mayor's office.

The service that Sandy provides our community is, frankly, priceless. I have known her since she opened her business six years ago, and her reputation as a fine trainer preceded even that. I have worked with her personally, and have sent dozens of clients to her over the years for everything from basic puppy training to help with serious behavior problems in adult dogs. Her profound competence in these areas has always been matched by her professionalism, kindness, joy, and grace. She has also assisted in the training of dogs who have gone on to serve other communities in law enforcement, working in drug detection in our country's schools, and in search and recovery efforts, as well as in the training of therapy dogs for the aged and infirm. Her positive influence extends well beyond our own locality. You all must certainly be aware of what an important role dogs play in our modern family lives, and you must be equally aware that their proper training and socialization is vital to the overall health of our society. There is no one in the Knoxville area whom I trust more than Sandy Pope to evaluate and properly manage any dog's social behavior as well as an owner's pet-induced stress. She is our own local "Dog Whisperer," and I feel blessed that her facility is only a few miles up the road from my own.

I have visited her kennel on many occasions, even prior to the improvements of the last year, and I can honestly say that Sandy's love for and dedication to dogs is in evidence by the level of comfort she provides the pets in residence, the cleanliness of her facility, and the degree of supervision the pets enjoy, each based on its specific needs. We all know that it is a normal part of a dog's behavior to bark and when groups of dogs are housed together there is an obvious tendency for the volume to increase, but Sandy is a professional trainer and she knows techniques to even minimize this. Her kennel is not located in the middle of a suburban center, but rather on several acres in the countryside. I cannot imagine a better location for a

business such as hers or a proprietor of such a business being more responsible.

I know Sandy personally to be a kind and honest woman who has spent the past year in efforts to ameliorate the problems expressed to her. If the only remaining alternative were to be the closing of Appalachian K-9 Training Center, Knoxville and the surrounding areas would suffer a terrible loss.

Please accept this letter as a very strong personal and professional endorsement of Appalachian K-9 Training Center.

Sincerely,

Rai Kaur Khalsa, VMD  
Fountain City Animal Hospital  
5630 North Broadway  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
865-688-0776

**CC:** <tbenefield@benefieldrichters.com>, <anders@holstongases.com>, <bartcarey@comcast.net>, <avc524@aol.com>, <md4ktn2u@aol.com>, <gewart@georgeewart.com>, <cole5137@bellsouth.net>, <s.johmson692@gmail.com>, <grafhomes@aol.com>, <rebeccalongmire@hotmail.com>, <makane1@bellsouth.net>, <npavlis@chartercom.com>, <wstowers@stowerscat.com>

Tennessee

e Department of

Human Services  
Division of Rehabilitation Services  
531 Henley Street, Suite 520  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902



Mr. Dan Kelly, Development Services Manager  
Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
Suite 403, City/County Building  
400 Main Street  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902

October 1, 2008

Dear Mr. Kelly:

I am strongly in favor that Sandy Pope's kennel be approved for continued operation without any condition that the existing kennels be moved. (File 8-E-08-UR, Byrd & Cooper Architects Barry Byrd, Reference #60). Appalachian K-9 Training Center is the cleanest, quietest, most well-maintained and community-friendly canine facility I have ever seen. Sandy is wonderful with every dog she meets, from the tiniest premature pup to the most elderly beloved companion. Sandy provides much needed support and instruction for pet owners; she encourages spaying/neutering, teaches positive ways decrease unwanted behavior and educates owners on dog nutrition, health and safety. Sandy has cared for abandoned and abused animals, thus keeping the strain off the city and county shelters.

Additionally, Appalachian K-9 Training Center is fully accessible so individuals with mobility impairments or other disabilities benefit from the full range of services offered. Job placement specialists for the Division of Rehabilitation Services have been in contact with Sandy as a potential employer for individuals with severe disabilities.

Approval of the kennel subject to moving the existing kennel would work an unbearable financial hardship. To move the kennel not only involves moving the buildings, but also replacing concrete, electrical, water, decking and fencing. The benefits to the community from the services provided by Sandy Pope far outweigh any inconvenience to the nearby property owner whose only complaint is to hear dogs barking when outside his home. I live in a rural part of Knox County and the sound of dogs barking is part of choosing to live in a country setting.

It would be an extreme disservice to the community if Sandy was unable to continue operating Appalachian K-9 Training Center as it presently exists. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jones, M.S., CRC  
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor



Ali Hemyari  
220 Westfield Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37221  
(615)438-2602

8-E-08-UR

Metropolitan Planning Commission  
City/County Building  
~~400 Main Street~~  
~~Knoxville, TN 37920~~  
Phone: 215-2500 / Fax: 215-2068

Dear Madam or Sir:

This letter is to respond to a complaint made against Appalachian K-9, 8324 Old Maynardville Pike, Knoxville TN 37928, Sandy Pope, Proprietor. As a client of Appalachian K-9, I wanted to share with you all the positive aspects Sandy and AK-9 bring to the Knoxville community. Sandy Pope is not only a kind hearted lady who consistently gives back to her community, but one who takes pleasure in training and teaching others to not only be better pet owners. She solves dilemmas and issues even experienced pet owners have. Her pride and joy is working with dogs and being able to teach and correct behavioral issues to insure the dogs in the community are enjoyed not only by the owners, but other people in public places as well. She also teaches owners on the well being of their pets, how to exercise, and how to feed to keep them healthy. She attends and competes in K-9 trials and has developed a fantastic reputation for herself as a caring and motivational trainer, which is, often times, different from other dog trainers in the Knoxville area.

I personally drive my three dogs from Nashville to Knoxville to board with Appalachian K-9 and Sandy Pope. There isn't another boarding place out there I trust with my dogs. Appalachian K-9 is an incredible asset to the Knoxville community and sets precedent on how business should be performed. With thousands of overly-satisfied customers, Sandy Pope and Appalachian K-9 should be the example many businesses follow.

Best Regards,



Ali Hemyari

**From:** Sarah Powell  
**To:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Date:** 8/22/2008 10:01:06 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sandy Pope K-9 Training Center Halls Tn.

>>> Edward Harris <[EPHARRIS3@webtv.net](mailto:EPHARRIS3@webtv.net)> 8/22/2008 3:46:13 AM >>>

Reference is being made to the Meeting scheduled for September 11th, concerning Sandy Pope, K-9 Training School--noise ordinance complaint.

Mrs. Pope has been a plus to the community for many years. We have found her to be cooperative in many ways, ie: peoples immediate needs regarding their pets, K-9 training and schooling, etc.

We have always found her to be accommodating and was always willing to work around what my husband and I needed at the moment.

She has an obvious excitement for her business and was so very excited with plans for the future, with regards to keeping things in a "country nature" with trees, shrubs, privacy fences etc. Her plans were always leaning in the direction of "those around her" and how she wanted to be sure she "fit in", rather than "stood out". We always felt her planning was done in a first class way, and not in a way that would disrupt the lives of others.

She appears to us, to be a lady who would be willing to accommodate those who would work with her on advancing her plans for a better community. She is definitely a true friend of all canines and has accolades of praise and awards regarding this along with character praises.

We feel it would be in the best interest of the community, if the MPC would review this lady and her business in a positive way, as many many of us in the community already do. Thank you. Ed and Lynn Harris 1914 Martha Berry Dr., Knoxville Tn. 37918 865-689-5327

**From:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Appalachian Kennel hearing

>>> "betsy graves" <betsygraves@comcast.net> 9/10/2008 10:16 PM >>>  
9/10/2008

As a client of AK9 and Sandy Pope I wanted to contact the Planning Commission regarding the noise complaint and subsequent hearing.

This facility was highly recommended to me by my veterinarian for both boarding and training of my standard poodle pups. Sandy has the fine quality of being both professional and very personable. She has helped me tremendously with my active and curious pups with boarding, private training, and owner classes on Tuesday evenings. During that time I have been impressed with the very clean conditions and the care it seems Sandy has taken to protect the animals. It was also immediately evident that Sandy has been careful about how her business traffic affects the surrounding homeowners. She is strict about pickup and drop-off times and about lingering in the kennel area as strangers could agitate the dogs. During my visits to AK9 to pick-up and drop-off my dogs the barking only started and continued while we were parking the car or entering the kennel area. While in the play yards or in the training field, I have heard nothing but an occasional bark (and I cannot be sure that it wasn't from a neighboring yard). Conversation, even at close range to the dogs, was easy. Class on the training field is very controlled and I have never had trouble hearing instructions from a few hundred feet. Truthfully, I had not thought about the fact that there wasn't barking interrupting class because it has been the rule.

Additionally, as a Realtor that has sold a great deal of rural property, I am surprised that a complaint would arise from a neighbor that knowingly purchased adjoining property. When I have sold property to buyers in a rural area, they have generally been very conscious of the surrounding property. If they weren't conscious, I have encouraged them to visit the property, repeatedly, at different times of the day. This would be to make sure they were familiar with the pace of the area, traffic, noise, houses with Friday night parties, etc. When buying in a largely unrestricted area, there are additional unknowns, "risks" if you will, that are inherent to "unrestricted" property. There are restrictions of course, county code and zoning, but in my experience buyers that want to be outside of subdivisions understand that they may not always be able to anticipate what will happen to property aside from their own. The people that I have dealt with are generally most concerned with homes or developments that would be an eyesore, a health hazard, or a serious detriment to their own property value. Appalachian Kennel is not any of these. Furthermore, I am not aware of any drops in value to properties that I have sold or researched that coexist alongside quality dog kennel, horse stable, or cattle farms.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any use

Thank you,  
Betsy Graves-Myers  
865-494-6443  
865-406-6117  
PO Box 718  
Norris, TN 37828

**From:** <michelegoodman@comcast.net>  
**To:** <michelegoodman@comcast.net>, <bartcarey@comcast.net>, <avc524@aol.com>, <md4ktn2u@aol.com>, <gewart@georgeewart.com>, <grafhomes@aol.com>, <makane1@bellsouth.net>, <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>, <wstowers@stowerscat.com>, <npavlis@chartercom.com>, <rebeccalongmire@hotmail.com>, <s.johnson692@gmail.com>, <cole5137@bellsouth.net>, <tbenefield@benefieldrichters.com>, <anders@holstongases.com>  
**Date:** 8/28/2008 4:50:37 PM  
**Subject:** Sandy Pope/ Appalachian K-9 Training Center

Dear Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commisioners,

I am writing in regard to Sandy Pope/ Appalachian K-9 Training Center and the hearing scheduled for September 11, 2008 at 1:30PM. I have been a client of Sandy Pope for approximately 3 1/2 years, during which time we have used her services for training and boarding of my female miniature dachshund. On every occasion that I have been to the of Appalachian K-9 Training Center, I have always found the staff to be professional and the facilities in good condition. I have not witnessed any situations or conditions that would prevent me from using Sandy Pope in the future. Upon review of this case, I hope that find that Sandy Pope/ Appalachian K-9 training Center operates a quality business and offers valuable services to her clients. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michele Goodman  
3308 Vickie Karen Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37938  
(865) 925-4060  
michelegoodman@comcast.net

**From:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Subject:** Fwd: Appalachian K-9 Training Center hearing Sept 11~ Sandy Pope

>>> cindy fugatt <cffugatt@hotmail.com> 9/9/2008 8:20 AM >>>

September 9, 2008

To  
members of the Metropolitan Planning Commission:

I am writing to you as a concerned client of Sandy Pope and Appalachian K9 Training Center. We began boarding with Sandy approximately 5 years ago. During this time, I have found Sandy to be an extremely professional business woman. She operates her kennels and training center as a business with a valid business license, this is not a "hobby". I have seen first hand all of the improvements that Sandy has made to her property in order to reduce the noise caused by the dogs in the kennels including: new hedges, privacy fencing, and covers on the kennels. She has also limited the hours in which we can pick up and drop off our dogs (as the dogs all get excited and bark when there is a pick up). Sandy's training center is recognized nationally by the Canine Good Citizenship award program. According to the AKC website, "This is a program that can help us assure that the dogs we love will always be welcomed and well-respected members of our communities." Appalachian K9 Training Center is an asset to the community which strives to care for and train our dogs with incredible skill and integrity.

More personally speaking with regard to Sandy~ she is an amazing individual with incredible skill at teaching and caring for dogs. She is an extremely hard worker. Sandy and her late husband, Ron, built Appalachian K9 Training center from the ground up to fulfill a personal dream. Always innovating and evolving to provide the best care and training for our animals. When our three dogs are boarded with her, I have no worries about their safety and know that they are being well cared for and loved in my absence.

If you require further character reference or business reference for Sandy Pope or Appalachian K9 Training Center, I would be happy to speak with you personally.

You may reach me at (865) 384-3660.

Most Sincere Regards,

Cindy F. Fugatt, MSW, LCSW

**From:** Heather Edgley <hedgley@bellsouth.net>  
**To:** <bartcarey@comcast.net>, <avc524@aol.com>, <md4ktn2u@aol.com>, <gewart@georgeewart.com>, <grafhomes@aol.com>, <makane1@bellsouth.net>, <anders@holstongases.com>, <tbenefield@benefieldrichters.com>, <cole5137@bellsouth.net>, <s.johnson692@gmail.com>, <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>, <rebeccalongmire@hotmail.com>, <npavlis@chartercom.com>, <wstowers@stowerscat.com>  
**Date:** 8/24/2008 8:43:25 PM  
**Subject:** Appalachian K9 Training Center, owner Sandy Pope

Dear Members of the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission,

Please consider the case of Sandy Pope, owner of Appalachian K9 Training Center.

This home-centered business is a tremendous asset to Knoxville and the surrounding community for many reasons. First, her outstanding boarding facility not only allows families to vacation knowing that their dogs are well cared for, but it also provides essential income to her business. This facility is a clean, safe, and loving place for all types of dogs.

The benefits her training facility provides are numerous. In the past she has assisted in training dogs who have gone on to serve their community in police work including drug detection. Presently she is working with dogs who are serving KPD in Search and Recovery. A number of her therapy dogs visit hospitals and nursing homes, and she even has one dog in a reading program at a local school.

Sandy Pope also provides essential help to owners of dogs with behavioral problems. Her private and group lessons help dogs become confident, obedient, and well behaved, thus providing their owners with well loved canine family members and friends. Sandy does all this with amazing fortitude and fervor, despite overwhelming personal grief in the past 2 years.

We would not consider any other facility for the boarding and training of our beloved pet, nor could we have chosen a better breeder for our puppy. Sandy Pope's business, in our minds, is an invaluable asset to the Knoxville community, and she presents a magnificent resource to the dog training world.

Sincerely,

Heather Edgley, M.D.  
Calvin Bard, M.D.





**From:** John Davis II <jackd@infionline.net>  
**To:** Wes Stowers Jr <wstowers@stowerscat.com>  
**Date:** 8/20/2008 4:31:26 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: APPALACHIAN K9 REVIEW

Dear Wes:

I teach in the Adult Forum at St. John's Cathedral and have had the privilege of knowing your late father. Your father and mother have talked with me about Bluefield as my wife grew up in that area.

I hope that the points made in this forwarded letter will be positively received by the MPC.

Thank you for your consideration.

John (Jack) Davis

Begin forwarded message:

> From: John Davis II <jackd@infionline.net>  
> Date: Wed Aug 20, 2008 4:24:59 PM US/Eastern  
> To: Michael A Kane <makane1@bellsouth.net>  
> Cc: John Davis II <jackd@infionline.net>, Mark Donaldson  
> <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>, Sandy Pope <dobermanlady@yahoo.com>  
> Subject: APPALACHIAN K9 REVIEW

>  
> Dear Michael:

>  
> I am Jack Davis, your neighbor, who walks my dog Wally down Kesterwood  
> Drive. Wally has received wonderful training at Appalachian K9 and has  
> been transformed from a somewhat frantic dog to one who is obedient  
> and who is a friend to many of our neighbors.

>  
> Sandy Pope is the owner and head trainer at AK9. She is very gifted in  
> understanding the mind and soul of dogs. I have seen her in one  
> session help owners get an understanding of what a dog wants and needs  
> so that the dog will be a continuing member of their family. She has  
> trained dogs to be protection dogs, trained them to be tracking dogs  
> and trained dogs to pass international standards of excellence. Her  
> dogs have been invited to schools and other communities where children  
> are delighted.

>  
> Sandy has always had an open facility where visitors are always  
> welcomed. Knox County Animal control has never found any infractions  
> at her facility and are very positive about the program. Likewise the  
> Knox County Health Dept. has been very positive about the clean and  
> healthy environment at AK9.

>  
> Sandy has been in business as the AK9 kennel for 6 years without any  
> complaints. However now one neighbor has a vendetta against her. The  
> other neighbors and the people of the neighboring church do not agree

> with the complainant.  
>  
> I hope that the MPC will take into its consideration that this fine  
> woman has started and manages a premier training center in our  
> community. She supports her self, pays all taxes and meets all  
> financial responsibilities. She has the esteem and support of so many  
> of us who see her and AK9 as a most important institution. I hope that  
> you will enable Sandy to continue working in this admirable way.  
>  
> Sincerely yours,  
>  
> John (Jack) Davis  
> 3410 Kesterwood Drive  
> 865 679-6346  
>

**CC:** John Davis II <jackd@infionline.net>, Mark Donaldson  
<mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>, Sandy Pope <dobermanlady@yahoo.com>

**From:** Dan Kelly  
**To:** Betty Jo Mahan  
**Date:** 8/6/2008 1:50:45 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: County Business 8-E-08-UR

>>> "Roonie" <westgraham@comcast.net> 08/06 11:26 AM >>>

We understand there are some questions about the kennel owned by Sandy Pope and whether to issue her a license for her business. We are writing on behalf of Sandy to advise you of a few of her qualities which may not have been pointed out to you.

Sandy is an excellent dog trainer and an extremely responsible person with her dogs. We have never witnessed any of her dogs (belonging to her, or kenneled) outside her yard (which is totally fenced ) to be a threat to anyone around her. Sandy provides a service to the community of pet owners and also contributes to the economy of the county. Also, being a trainer, she assists others in the community to become more responsible pet owners. We have personally sought her out to help us train our dogs and we drive there from Bluefield, Virginia strictly for this purpose. She is a very knowledgeable person and is solely responsible for herself and daughter since the untimely death of her husband.

We thought communities would encourage business for the county, and hope you will consider the positive side of this situation before making a decision that will be detrimental to all concerned. If we can personally answer any questions for you, please call us at 276-3262239.

Dr. D. W. Chambers  
Susan L. Chambers

313 Parkview Drive  
Bluefield, Va. 24605

**From:** "krbrown13" <krbrown13@bellsouth.net>  
**To:** <bartcarey@comcast.net>, <avc524@aol.com>, <md4ktn2u@aol.com>, <gewart@georgeewart.com>, <grafhomes@aol.com>, <makane1@bellsouth.net>, <anders@holstongases.com>, <tbenefield@benefieldrichters.com>, <cole5137@bellsouth.net>, <s.johnson692@gmail.com>, <rebeccalongmire@hotmail.com>, <npavlis@chartercom.com>, <wstowers@stowerscat.com>, <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 9/3/2008 1:09:53 PM  
**Subject:** AK9 - Sandy Pope

To Whom It May Concern:

It is our understanding that the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission is currently considering revoking the business permit for AK9, a canine kennel operated by Sandy Pope. The purpose of this letter is to advocate strongly against any such action.

We are not citizens of Knoxville, but we have extensive family ties and roots there, and through those, we have come to know Sandy quite well. Simply put, she is a wonderful human being. She is exactly the type of business person that any local government should want to support. Her character and integrity are above reproach, and we know from personal experience that she operates her business with the utmost professionalism and compassion.

Our most significant exposure to Sandy has been in connection with the acquisition of our two Dobermans-Hexa (age 3) and Harpo (age 6 months). This was an extraordinarily daunting undertaking for our family, but it is something that we wanted to do for our two daughters (Sophie, 8, and Olivia, 7), who adore dogs. Sandy has worked closely with us over the past eight months from afar. First, with Hexa, to help us overcome the many challenges associated with "big" dog ownership. And most recently, with Harpo, in dealing with the travails of puppy-hood.

We know that the care and concern that Sandy has exhibited towards our family has not just been for our benefit; it has also been for the dogs-these were her "babies" before they were ours. That care and concern permeates everything that Sandy does at AK9, and makes it a place that anyone would feel completely at ease just stopping by for a visit or leaving their beloved pet. In fact, Sophie and Olivia have visited Sandy's business on several occasions and have become so enthralled with the enterprise that

AK9 is where they hope to spend their next school break, mastering the art of dog training with Hexa and Harpo. (When asked about her activities outside of school, Sophie lists "dog-training" as her main hobby - all this as a result of knowing Sandy.)

It would indeed be a travesty for you to shut down Sandy's business, certainly to her, but also to the community. On behalf of Sophie, Olivia, Hexa, and Harpo, we strongly urge you to allow Sandy the opportunity to do whatever it takes to continue her very special business.

Sincerely,

Lonnie & Kim Brown

Athens, Georgia

706-369-9970

*B-E-OB-UR*

**From:** "Boden, Pamela J" <pboden@CovHlth.com>  
**To:** <dan.kelly@knoxmpc.org>, <tom.brechko@knoxmpc.org>, <buz.johnson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 8/5/2008 8:59:23 AM  
**Subject:** 8324 Old Maynardville Pike

I am writing in regards to Appalachian K-9 Training Center. I have known Sandy Pope (and Ron Pope deceased) for several years. We met because of an unruly bloodhound puppy named Lucy, which she helped us train. Lucy is now a useful tracking dog on the Knoxville Police Department Search and Recovery Team. If it weren't for Sandy's help and encouragement who knows how Lucy would have turned out. Since that time we have worked with and helped Sandy improve and grow her kennel business after Ron's death. She has made numerous improvements to try to appease the neighbor who has issue with the kennel. Unfortunately this neighbor didn't let his issues be known until Ron was gone and Sandy was trying to build a business that could sustain her and her daughter as a now single woman. This business has been ongoing for the last 8 years, why now is it such an issue? I am asking the board to take the previous 7 years into consideration and allow Sandy to continue her business dreams. She is an excellent dog trainer, using only positive teaching techniques and encouragement. Rescue organizations bring dogs to her for evaluation before allowing them to be placed in foster or permanent homes. She does not train attack dogs and only trains obedience, tracking, and dogs that have issues that need correcting. Personally we own two of the Pope's dobermans who are of excellent breeding, with sound dispositions and loving personalities. Sandy tries to keep the barking level to a minimum with strict drop off and pick up times, keeping cars and foot traffic around the kennel area to those scheduled times only. It would be a great loss to the dog community to not allow this kennel to continue to cater to the needs of her long standing clientele and the continued referred customers. Please do not take this woman's livelihood and essentially her home away from her because of one person.

Thank you for your time,

Pam Boden

IRB Coordinator

Covenant Health IRB

Knoxville, Tennessee

Office: 531-5718

Fax: 531-5731

**From:** "Steve Bishop" <stevetbishop@gmail.com>  
**To:** <bartcarey@comcast.net>, <avc54@aol.com>, <md4ktn2u@aol.com>, <gewart@georgeewart.com>, <grafhomes@aol.com>, <makane1@bellsouth.net>, <anders@holstongases.com>, <tbenefield@benefieldrichters.com>, <cole5137@bellsouth.net>, <s.johnson692@gmail.com>, <rebeccalongmire@hotmail.com>, <npavlis@chartercom.com>, <wstowers@stowerscat.com>, <mark.donaldson@knoxmpc.org>  
**Date:** 9/17/2008 10:08:09 PM  
**Subject:** File # 8-E-08-UR MPC

We are writing concerning the "use on review" process for Appalachian K-9.

My husband and I met Sandy Pope over 4 years ago after we brought home our first dog, Sawyer. We were recommended to Appalachian K9 for Puppy Kindergarten class. We knew that Sawyer would be an indoor pet and that his breed, German Short-haired pointer, is known to be mischievous. We were very impressed with what we saw. It was immediately obvious that Sandy knew what she was doing. We learned quickly that Puppy Kindergarten was more about teaching us how to be responsible pet owners than anything else. The class met once a week for 6 weeks. It was exciting to see the results of this training. Sandy made herself available to us through out the process.

We were excited to learn that Sandy offered kenneling services as well. We had spent a good deal of time researching local kennels and to this point, did not feel comfortable leaving Sawyer with anyone. That changed once we met Sandy. We found her facilities to be very well kept and knowing Sawyer was going to be at a kennel with someone that we knew would always look out for him was the peace of mind we needed.

Since I have seen first hand Sandy's talent with dogs and how she trains them and loves them. I knew she would be a great example to my students. At this time, I was a Fifth grade teacher at Grace Christian Academy. In our Science curriculum, we study mammals with one section on dogs. She came out to the school for the 2 years I was there and talked to the students about being responsible pet owners and being safe around pets. Sandy also brought some of her dogs and showed the students their obedience and some of the jobs that they have. The students loved this opportunity to learn from someone rather than a book.

About two years ago, we moved to West Virginia for Steve's work. We found ourselves searching again for a kennel for Sawyer. Steve spent a great deal of time visiting all the kennels in the area. We were not happy because of the cleanliness and safety. Because of this, we decided we would drive to Knoxville to kennel him with Sandy and then we would go on our trip. It was worth the extra time for that peace of mind.

After we moved back to Knoxville, Steve and I talked about getting another dog. Sandy had a German Shepherd named Pepper that needed a home. Before taking in another dog, Sandy spent a few weeks with us to properly acclimate

Pepper to Sawyer and us. Sandy was very thorough with us to make sure that it was a good fit for everyone. Sandy's dedication to her animals is commendable.

Over the last 18 months, Sandy has had to face some trials that would be most people's worst fear but Sandy has tried to rise about these trials. Sandy agreed to work with her neighbor, who approached her with complaints soon after her husband was killed in a car accident. We as patrons were asked to work with her to help accommodate the situation. We were glad to do so. Now to find out that this neighbor is pressing this farther and making this issue more than just a neighborly complaint.

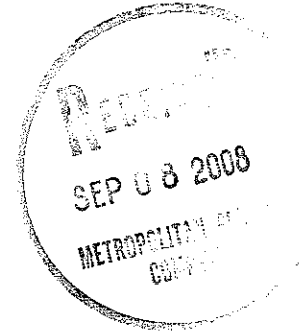
Sandy has become a part of our lives. We were disheartened to hear that she is facing the possibility of losing her livelihood and that this community could be losing such a valuable resource. We ask that you help resolve this issue so that Sandy Pope can finally put this behind her, finish the normal grieving process that she deserves and have the peace of mind knowing that she can take care of herself and her family.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Steve and Jennifer Bishop



Allyson H. Baertels, MS, NCC  
709 Penfield Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
865-604-1042



8-E-08-UR

August 22, 2008

Dear Members of the Metropolitan Planning Commission:

I am writing to you today in support of Sandy Pope, owner of Appalachian K9 Training Center. The services provided by Mrs. Pope are unique to this area and make a positive impact to our community.

My husband and I trained our dogs with Mrs. Pope and had a wonderful experience. We would never think of taking any of our dogs to another trainer. Mrs. Pope has a true talent in training dogs and we feel this is her calling in life. We would also never allow anyone else to board our dogs if needed. It would be a true disservice to this community to stop her from providing her talents with others.

After having worked with Mrs. Pope I am sure that she would take all the reasonable steps necessary to curb any problems with noise. Please afford this kind and gracious woman all the necessity to continue the gracious work she has already accomplished. I never witnessed any noise from her kennels and think the situation is obviously overstated.

I am asking for you to keep Mrs. Sandy Pope in business doing what she does best. Mrs. Pope runs a top of the line business and this community is blessed to be able to have these services provided to them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allyson Baertels".

Allyson H. Baertels, MS, NCC

September 22, 2008

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Dear Metropolitan Planning Commissioners,

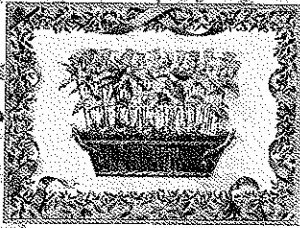
I am writing in reference to complaints levied against Appalachian K-9 Training Center, located off Maynardville Highway. For over a year I have taken my dog to training classes and have also boarded her there. I have received excellent care and training from Sandy and staff. I have also appreciated the attention Sandy gives to cleanliness, odor control, and professionalism.

When I was looking for a kennel, I found several available, but most of them are in West Knoxville, a significant distance from the Gibbs area where we live. It seems to me that the fast-growing area of North Knox County really needs this service. Our area is quickly becoming urbanized, and to move a much needed kennel to an area where it might not run a risk of being a nuisance would also mean that it is inaccessible to residents of the community. If the county government wants responsible pet owners, services such as A K-9 must be available. A K-9 Training Center has had a positive influence on our family and on the community. We need that in Knoxville.

Cordially,



Peggy Adam



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Aug 30, 2008

Metropolitan Planning Commission

I am writing this letter in support of Sandy Pope and her business AK-9. Sandy is the kind of business person that a community should be proud to have. She is a very hard,

conscientious and honest business owner. She cares deeply about animals and their owners.

As a business owner she has made every effort to comply with her neighbors complaints in a positive straight forward manner, yet he continues to complain. It appears that she is being subjected to very clear harassment activities.

I have had personal experience with the kennel that Sandy runs as well as her dog training classes. I have been very satisfied with all my experiences involving her and her business. She is an exceptional person, who runs an

excellent business which is both a credit and a benefit to the community. She has passed all five visits from Knox County Animal Control and one visit from Knox County Health Dept. Please do not close this fine business.

Deane Cook