



## LOMBARD POLICE DEPARTMENT



DATE: November 5, 2007

TO: William T. Lichter  
Village Manager

FROM: Ray Byrne  
Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: Ordinance Amending the Village Code in Regards to Dangerous and Vicious Dogs**

At the suggestion of our Village prosecutor, Linda Pieczynski, the attached ordinance has been prepared to better equip the police department to handle situations where dangerous or vicious dogs are involved. The Village Code provisions that currently cover dangerous or vicious dogs are found in Title IX, Chapter 90. The current provisions are outdated and somewhat vague. This makes enforcement and prosecution of these cases difficult in court. While we do not handle a great deal of these cases, when they do occur they can be quite serious and the police department needs the appropriate enforcement avenues to be able to adequately protect the public.

The ordinance was prepared by Attorney George Wagner of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins and has been reviewed by Ms. Pieczynski. Some notable changes include an expanded list of definitions, to include definitions for a dangerous or vicious animal, dangerous dog and vicious dog. The offense of "dog at large" becomes an absolute liability offense, negating the burden to prove that an owner "permitted" or "allowed" a dog to run free. Finally, the provisions for confinement, redemption and impound fees are much more specific and detailed.

I would respectfully request that you forward this ordinance to the Village Board for approval. If you should have any questions, or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

