



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA - ADDENDUM

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

- 
1. New Business
  0. ADDENDUM - Cons. Appeal Decision of Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Scott Nellis, 10320 Grouse Street Case 12-01V



**City Council Addendum**

**1. 0.**

**Meeting Date:** 03/06/2012

**Subject:** Cons. Appeal Decision of Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Scott Nellis, 10320 Grouse Street Case 12-01V - ADDENDUM

**From:** Cathy Sorensen, City Clerk

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**INTRODUCTION**

Attached is some additional information regarding Item 4, Cons. Appeal Decision of Board of Adjustment and Appeals, Scott Nellis, 10320 Grouse Street Case 12-01V

**DISCUSSION**

Attached is a report from Keith Streff, agent with the Animal Humane Society, regarding his investigation of 10320 Grouse Street NW on October 26, 2011. This report was requested by Councilmember Koch and is being included in the staff report as well.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC VISION**

This item is providing additional information as requested.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This is provided as additional information only.

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**Attachments**

Humane Agent Report

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**Form Review**

Form Started By: Cathy Sorensen  
Final Approval Date: 03/06/2012

Started On: 03/06/2012 05:12 PM

**ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY**  
**Humane Agent Supplemental Report**  
**Golden Valley Campus**

**Investigation Incident:**      **Animal welfare complaint**

**Owner / Suspect:**            **Scott Nellis**

**Address:**                        **10320 Grouse St NW Coon Rapids**

**Phone #**

**Investigator:**                 **Keith Streff**

**Report Date:**                 **10/29/11**

On October 19, 2011 the Animal Humane Society received a call from Coon Rapids Housing Inspector Leya Drabczak. She stated that the city received a report that numerous exotic animals may be kept at a residential home. Based on preliminary investigation there was reason to believe the property owner is selling reptiles and/or running a retail business out of the residence. Ms. Drabczak requested and agency assist with the execution of a search warrant.

On October 26, 2011 at approximately 1 pm I met with officials from the city of Coon Rapids for a pre-entry briefing. We executed the search warrant at approximately 2:15 pm. We knocked on the front door of the house and were met by a man verbally identified as Scott Nellis. We introduced ourselves and explained the purpose for our visit. Subsequent investigation and inspection determined the following facts and findings: **(See photo file)**

- The house is a single family dwelling with a yard that appeared relative to the neighborhood.
- There was a very distinct odor apparent from the front steps.
- Mr. Nellis promptly answered the front door and appeared to have just gotten out of bed. He was cooperative and relatively calm.
- Mr. Nellis asked for and we provided a written copy of the search warrant.
- Mr. Nellis admitted breeding, raising and selling reptiles.
- Mr. Nellis considers himself a hobby breeder and alleged to own about 100 snakes among other reptiles including rodents as feeder stock.
- Mr. Nellis alleged that all the reptiles are non-venomous and are confined to containers throughout the home. None of the reptiles are loose to the best of his knowledge.
- Nellis alleged to breed a variety of snake species to sell but does not cross breed or have any hybrids.
- Mr. Nellis alleged to have a female roommate but she was not home at the time.
- Mr. Nellis was home alone and does not have any hired help or any other people involved with his reptile business.

- We entered and searched the home without incident. No loose animals were observed.
- The interior of the home was fairly well kept but had a nearly overwhelming odor consistent with a musk common to the rodent and reptile family.
- A search determined approximately 200-300 non venomous snakes including a cat, lizards, skinks, iguana's, hissing cockroaches, rats, mice and various other feed based insects in the maggot, pupae and/or larvae stage.
- The majority of the snakes and rodents are confined to commercial (Neodesha) containers in the lower level of the house.
- A few aquariums and cages were located on the upper level of the home and confined some of the species noted above.
- Mr. Nellis stated that he could and/or would provide a more accurate inventory of the animal population and specie of animal confined.
- The reptile rooms were very (app. 80 degrees) warm and had a nearly overwhelming odor.
- Other rooms including the attached garage are cluttered to near capacity but manageable.
- The sanitary environment is adequate but the sheer numbers and lack of ventilation makes the odor unmanageable.
- Existing ventilation is inadequate and cannot sufficiently accommodate the number of animals currently confined to the residence.
- Lighting throughout the home is adequate.
- A significant amount of bedding, feed and other related supplies is stored and available in the basement and attached garage.
- A Carbon Monoxide tank with a hose attached is present downstairs.
- Mr. Nellis uses CO in a homemade apparatus to euthanize rodents.
- There are a number of refrigerator/freezer combinations in the lower level of the home – some are filled to capacity with dead rodents.
- All the animals appear to be adequately provided for and in acceptable body condition at this time.
- An upper bedroom has dozens of stored handguns and long guns.
- There are 2 piles of soiled bedding (litter) accumulating on a pile in the back yard of the property.

I explained the animal welfare chapter and advised Mr. Nellis of the minimum requirements to keep and maintain animals. I gave him my business card and advised him that I was assisting the city related to issues involving animal welfare. Most of the concerns appear to involve municipal code violations related to possession of non-domesticated animals (reptiles). The current population of animals is currently stable. However, the lack of proper ventilation and over-crowding presents a risk for disease and cross contamination. I recommended Mr. Nellis seek a commercial facility that is appropriately zoned for his animal inventory. Inspector Drabczak issued citations as well as correction orders. The Coon Rapids city housing department will continue to monitor this case to ensure compliance with municipal ordinance.