

May 16, 2016

Pete Tomlinson, Franklin County Attorney
c/o Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board
113 Market Street
Louisburg, NC 27549

Dear Mr. Tomlinson:

On or about February 10, 2014, former Franklin County Sheriff Jerry W. Jones (Jones) attended a US Army/Office of the Provost Marshal General (OPMG) adoption event for Tactical Explosive Detection Dog (TEDD)/Military Working Dogs (TEDD/MWDs). During the event, Jones secured six (6) TEDD/MWDs under the authority of Franklin County. Those six MWDs are, as follows: Karo T286, Dan5 R594, Hanz1 T093, Yankee R540, Alex2 R562, and Dino1 R598. Franklin County Commissioners, on August 3, 2015, presumed authority to advertise and sell MWDs Hanz1 and Dino1, confirming that Jones' adoption of the MWDs was for the benefit of Franklin County.

The OPMG's "Covenant Not to Sue with Indemnity Agreement" (Enclosure 1), which per our investigation, appeared to have been used for both Law Enforcement and the General Public, stated the following:

Recipient further makes the promise that the MWD will not be used for any illegal purpose...nor be given or sold to another....

Plain reading of the contract would appear to prohibit the Franklin County Commissioners from any sale or gift of the MWDs.

Congress defined the adoption procedure for released MWDs through "Robby's Law," 10 USC § 2583. This protection, afforded by Congress, recognizes the dedication of military handlers to their partners and their adoption priority. In the case of the TEDD/MWDs, we feel that priority placement of the dog with his TEDD handler is even more significant, considering their dependence on each other during a time of war. These infantrymen/handlers and their dogs deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq, living and fighting together 24/7. Time after time, handlers relate how their dogs saved their lives and that of their comrades and for many, multiple times. And, equally as eloquent, voicing the love and dedication of these men and their partners, are the

admissions of protecting their dogs with their own bodies during the midst of a fire. As Americans, we feel that honoring a promise made by Congress, in recognition of the service of these brave and honorable warriors, both human and canine, is the least that a country, humbled by their sacrifice, can make.

Currently, Dan5's handler, Nicholas Kaser (Enclosure 2), and Hanz1's handler, Andrew Rasmussen (Enclosure 3) are actively seeking a reunion with their partner. It is our belief that Franklin County Commissioners (who were, perhaps, previously unaware of the Adoption Form's transfer limitations and the additional legal requirement of Federal law) will pursue an immediate remedy to this breach in the contract terms and reunite Nicholas and Andrew with Dan5 and Hanz1.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Hampton".

Betsy Hampton

Founder

Justice for TEDD Handlers

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www.justice4tedds.com

www.facebook.com/justice4tedds