

“The Village Code allows a person to keep or permit one dog in any dwelling unit of a multi-family residential building containing four (4) or more dwelling units within the Village. The Village Board requested that the Board of Health review the current dog limitation rule for multi-family residential buildings and provide the Village Board with a report and recommendation in support of the ordinance as it exists or any potential amendments to increase the limitations for dogs in any multi-family residential building.”

The Board of Health held an initial discussion, which led to the decision to gather data that would be useful to develop a response. The data that was to be gathered included information on how surrounding communities address the issue and information from building owners who would be the group most impacted by a change in ordinance.

The Board of Health worked with the Public Health Department to gather data using two surveys. The first survey (attachment 1) is an overview of the dog limitations in various municipalities surrounding Oak Park. The information found was very global and general with no specification as to whether the dwelling addressed in the ordinance was single or multifamily, number of square footage of the dwelling or if the total number of pets allowed had dog limitations or not.

The second survey consisted of questions developed by the Board, which were used, in an online questionnaire that was sent out to over 80 multi family building owners in Oak Park. With a response rate of approximately 47% the results were non-conclusive. The survey results showed 60% of respondents currently support one dog per unit and 66% were not in favor of increasing the number of dogs per unit. Only 30% of the respondents indicated that they would update their by-laws or lease agreements to a higher number if the Village increased the number of dogs allowed while 36% responded they would not change. The remaining 33% were unknown. There were many comments citing issues/problems that the multi family property owners have that can be found after questions 3 and 4. Additional comments that were made can be found in question 6.

After careful review and discussion of the results of the Oak Park Multifamily Survey the Board of Health voted to abstain from supporting and/or opposing the increase in multi-family dog limitation, but to submit back to the Village Board the survey results presented at the October BOH meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Florence L. Miller, Chair
Oak Park Board of Health Commission