

**CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE  
ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT DANGEROUS DOG HEARING  
MARCH 3, 2026**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

A City of Port St. Lucie Animal Control Department Dangerous Dog Hearing was opened by Special Magistrate Keith Davis on March 3, 2026, at 10:06 a.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall Council Chambers, 121 Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Present for

City: Daniella Margetic, Deputy City Attorney  
Catherine Marson, Animal Control Officer  
Rhonda Klein, Victim

Present for

Respondent: Gabrielle Agassi, Appellant  
Michelle Agassi, Appellant Witness

**2. HEARING**

The Special Magistrate announced that this was a Dangerous Dog hearing in reference to a dog named Buddy and explained the procedure for the hearing. The Deputy City Clerk provided the Oath of Testimony to all applicants.

Attorney Margetic provided an overview of the incident, and Ms. Agassi expressed agreement with the overview.

Attorney Margetic called witness Rhonda Klein, and upon questioning, Ms. Klein shared details about her home and her two dogs, Bailey and Hudson. She also explained how she takes them out for walks, using their harnesses and leashes. **(Clerk's Note:** Ms. Klein exhibited the leashes and harnesses at this time.)

Upon further questioning, Ms. Klein described the incident. **(Clerk's Note:** At this time Attorney Margetic submitted photos of the location as exhibits and Ms. Agassi did not object to them being made a part of the record. The Special Magistrate made the exhibits a part of the record for this hearing.)

Attorney Margetic inquired if Ms. Klein recognized all of the locations in the exhibit, to which she replied she was unsure of some and did recognize others, and she explained where her dogs were located and when she first saw Ms. Agassi and her dog. Ms. Klein stated that the dogs were a little bit in front of her on their retractable leashes, and that she saw Ms. Agassi attempting to restrain her dog, Buddy. She also stated that when Buddy approached her, he was not restrained, but she did not know how he was no longer restrained. Ms. Klein stated that she picked up Bailey,

and Buddy had a hold on Hudson, who was then able to get free and Buddy chased him. She stated that Buddy did not catch Hudson, and she found Hudson bleeding on the bench outside her home. She stated that she kept asking Ms. Agassi to retrieve Buddy, who was sitting on her street not moving, so she grabbed Hudson and went inside her house. Ms. Klein stated that once she got inside her home, she realized she had a gouge on her own wrist. **(Clerk's Note:** At this time Attorney Margetic submitted photos of Ms. Klein's injuries as exhibits and Ms. Agassi did not object to them being made a part of the record. The Special Magistrate made the exhibits a part of the record for this hearing.)

**(Clerk's Note:** At this time Attorney Margetic submitted photos of Hudson's injuries as exhibits and Ms. Agassi did not object to them being made a part of the record. The Special Magistrate made the exhibits a part of the record for this hearing.) Ms. Klein stated that she did not see external injuries on Bailey, but she brought both dogs to veterinary urgent care, and she went to have her own injuries treated afterwards, of which she received a tetanus shot and stitches. **(Clerk's Note:** At this time Attorney Margetic submitted additional photos of Ms. Klein's injuries as exhibits and Ms. Agassi did not object to them being made a part of the record. The Special Magistrate made the exhibits a part of the record for this hearing.)

Ms. Klein stated that she went for a follow-up because there was swelling and liquid building up in her arm, of which they had to remove the stitches and drain the wound, and that she had to keep it dry and continue with antibiotics. Attorney Margetic then concluded her witness testimony with Ms. Klein.

The Special Magistrate provided instructions to Ms. Agassi's mother, Michelle Agassi, regarding questioning witnesses. Ms. Agassi and Mrs. Agassi did not have any further questions for Ms. Klein.

Attorney Margetic called the next witness, Port St. Lucie Police Animal Control Officer Catherine Marson. Upon Attorney Margetic's questioning, Officer Marson described her level of duties and the injuries she observed on Hudson, of which it was assumed the injury was caused by another dog due to the call they received and the wounds being indicative of a dog bite. She stated that she photographed both Ms. Klein and Hudson's injuries and interviewed Ms. Klein, and that she also spoke to Ms. Agassi and the veterinarian, of whom confirmed that the injury was consistent of a bite from another dog. She stated that Ms. Agassi's statement was similar to Ms. Klein's, and described that Buddy had slipped from his harness. She then stated that they dispatched the rabies quarantine requirement at the Animal Control kennels and described the process. She stated that there was no further information that had not been included in this hearing thus far, and she described the completion of the investigation. Attorney Margetic concluded questioning, and Ms. Agassi did not have questions for Officer Marson. The City then concluded its presentation.

Ms. Agassi began her testimony and provided a written testimony by behaviorist, Ingrid Strauss of Big Dog Ranch Rescue, of whom stated that Buddy did not exhibit aggression under their care. Ms. Agassi clarified for the record that Buddy is a hound-mix, not a pitbull-mix, and then she

provided her statement, stating that she did her due diligence and had moved to the other side of the street, and that Ms. Klein's dogs were provoking Buddy and she did not tell them to stop. She stated that Buddy did come out of his harness, and she explained the incident of Buddy chasing Hudson.

Ms. Agassi discussed a previous incident in which Ms. Klein's dogs were barking at Buddy as he was coming home from the vet, so she asked her to leave their property, to which Ms. Klein then called the police and stated that she was threatened. Ms. Agassi responded in the negative, stating that they did not threaten Ms. Klein. She then described the current ways she has been complying with safety measures for Buddy, and she concluded her statements.

Attorney Margetic provided questioning and stated that in Ms. Agassi's statement, she noted that Buddy could be reactive to other dogs, to which Ms. Agassi explained that he is not aggressively reacting, and that he barks and jumps, but does not snarl at other dogs. Attorney Margetic inquired about muzzle training, to which Ms. Agassi stated that the Animal Control Officers showed her how to apply a muzzle, so they have been muzzle training him. She also confirmed that Buddy did get loose of his harness and collar.

Ms. Agassi then called her mother, Michelle Agassi, as a witness. Upon questioning, Mrs. Agassi stated that she called the victim on the way home from the airport, and Ms. Klein had advised her that she was traumatized, but she noted that Ms. Klein continued to walk her dogs in front of the Agassi's home. She stated that she asked them not to do this so that Buddy would not react, but they did not desist. She discussed the measures that she takes when Buddy starts barking, and that other neighbors have affirmed that Ms. Klein's dogs bark. She requested another opportunity for Buddy to prove that he is not a dangerous dog. Attorney Margetic did not have any questions for Mrs. Agassi, and Ms. Agassi then concluded her presentation.

The Special Magistrate provided the parties with an opportunity for a final statement and asked them to address the statutory provision regarding not classifying a dog as dangerous.

Attorney Margetic provided her closing statement, noting that the factors of the statutory provision were not present in this case, and that Ms. Agassi was not in danger. She added that Buddy protecting his human was eviscerated when he ran across the street.

Ms. Agassi provided her closing statement, stating that she did not remember Ms. Klein's dogs being close to her and reiterated that Buddy was protecting her.

A break was called at 11:14 a.m., and the hearing resumed at 11:37 a.m.

The Special Magistrate stated that he would uphold the finding that Buddy is a dangerous dog. He stated that the unprovoked definition was met and severe injury was met. The Special Magistrate advised that a \$400 assessment would be made as part of the Order.

**ANIMAL CONTROL DANGEROUS  
DOG HEARING MINUTES**

**MARCH 3, 2026**

**3. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

There were no comments from the public.

**4. ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, the hearing adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

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Jasmin De Freese, Deputy City Clerk