



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Am .347

**Philadelphia (Pa.). City Council.  
Ordinances, 1722**

**3 items, 0.05 linear feet**

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**Processing Completed:** May 2004

**Sponsor:** Processing made possible by a grant from the  
National Endowment for the Humanities

**Restrictions:** None

**Related Collections at** City of Philadelphia Ordinance (1789), Library

**HSP:** Company of Philadelphia Collection  
Philadelphia (Pa.). City Council. Petitions to  
the Select and Common Councils, Collection  
1002  
Philadelphia City Council Minute book (1789-  
1793), Collection 1411  
Philadelphia Committee on Markets Minutes  
(1729-1831), Collection 1316

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### Abstract

Originally established in 1691, Philadelphia's Common Council went through several structural changes before its 1919 merger with the Select Council to form the current City Council. During the period of the Proprietorship's charter, from 1701 to 1776, the Common Council was responsible for enacting legislation for the city. This collection consists of three ordinances passed by the Common Council in 1722.

### Background note

The Common Council was originally formed in 1691 under William Penn's charter of the City of Philadelphia. In 1701 the Proprietor's Charter revamped the existing structure and created a Common Council that included the mayor, the recorder, three aldermen, and nine Common Councilors. From 1701 until the Proprietorship's charter was dissolved in 1776, the Common Council was responsible for enacting legislation for the city. The council's structure went through a series of other changes before 1919, when a revision of the city charter combined the Common and Select Councils into one City Council.

### Scope & content

This collection consists of three ordinances written and passed by Philadelphia's Common Council on October 15, 1722, all relating to the safeguarding of public order.

The first ordinance is entitled, "An Ordinance for Preventing of Mischiefs arising from Doggs in this City."

Whereas frequent Complaints have been made against the Great Number of Doggs within this City, Severall Sheep having been lately Worried, Milch Cows on their coming home and Returning to feed Continually Chased and Pursued, Horses often sett upon and frightened to the great Hazard of their Rider, and the Inhabitants by their Incessant Howling and Barking in the Night time very much disturbd in their Rest, all Which are Comon and Publick Nusances and Require Preventive and Speedy Remedy.

Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by the Mayor and Comonalty of this City of Philadelphia in Common Council Assembled that if any Dogg or Bitch from and after the first day of November next shall Runn at anny Person, or Runn at Chase or Pursue any Horse or any Cow or other Cattle or creature, Or shall be abroad and at Large to Doe Mischief or give disturbance in the Streets in the Night time, It shall and may be Lawful for any Person to Kill or Destroy such Dogg or Bitch Or otherwise Inform the Mayor or Recorder or some Alderman thereof Who shall immediately Order the Beadle to demand such Dogg or Bitch from the Owner or Possessor in order to be Killed or destroyd And if such Owner or Possessor upon such demand shall refuse to deliver up such Dogg or Bitch to the Beadle The Magistrate before whom such Informacon was made shall immediately issue his Warrant against such Owner or Possessor and take him bound with Sureties (if he thinks fit) to Appear and Answer at the next Sessions for such his Nuisance and Contempt.

The second ordinance is entitled “An Ordinance for the Prevention of Miscehief or damage that may happen by Waggoners Carters and Draymen.”

Whereas divers Inconveniencies have Ensued in this City from Waggoners Carters and Draymen sometime leaving their horses in their respective Waggon Cart and Drays loose and at large, And at other times from their Riding on their Carriages and riding their Horses on a Trott through the Street By which the Lives of divers Inhabitants but especially of Children have been Highly Endangerd And Divers Hurts and Maims have been Received thereby for Prevention whereof for the Future Be it Enacted and Ordained And it is hereby Enacted and Ordained by the Mayor and Comonalty of this City of Philadelphia in Comon Council assembled That from and after the first day of November next If any Waggoner Carter or Drayman Working or Plying within this City or Passing into or out of the Same shall Leave their Waggon Cart or Dray Loose or at large in the Street Whereby the Horses shall take to Running or go at large by Reason of the absence of such Waggoner Carter or Drayman Or is such Waggoner Carter or Drayman shall Ride in or upon his Waggon Cart or Dray or shall Suffer his Horses to Trottin the Streets and shall be thereof Convicted upon the View of a Magistrate Every Such Waggoner Carter and Drayman shall for his first offence forfeit and Pay the Sume of five shillings and for the Second and every other offence Ten shillings One Moyety to the Informer or Prosecutor and the other Moyety to the Publick use and Service of this City and shall Stand Comitted to the Common Goal till Payment thereof and in Cases such Person shall be a Negro and shall be Convicted as aforesaid He shall be Whipd at the Discretion of a Magistrate not exceeding fifteen Lashes unless his Master or Owner will Immediately Pay down the forfeiture aforesaid.

The top portion of the third ordinance is no longer extant, but the remainder of the ordinance reads as follows:

...in the Built Part of this City is not only a very indecent and unseemly practice but very dangerous Consequence to the Inhabitants especially the Children Severall

having been thrown down much Hurt and Narrowly escaped with their Lives for the Prevention Whereof for the future Be it Enacted and Ordained by the M[ayor] and Comonalty of this City of Philadelphia in Comon Council assembled That if any Person from and after the first day of November next shall Ride and gallop on an Excessive Swift Pace or Trott in any of the Streets of the built part of this Ciyty and be thereof Convicted upon the View of a Magistrate or by the Oath or Affirmacon of one or more Credible Witnesses before a Magistrate he shall [illeg.] and Pay the Sume of five shillings and for the Second and every other Offence Ten shillings One Moyety thereof for the Informer or Prosecutor and the other Moyety to the Publick use and Service of this City and shall stand Comitted to the Common Goal till Payment thereof and in Cases such Person so offending shall be a Negro and shall be thereof Convicted as aforesaid He shall be Whipd at the Discretion of a Magistrate not exceeding fifteen Stripes unless his Master or Owner will Imediatly pay down the forfeiture aforesaid.

## **Separation report**

None.

## **Related materials**

City of Philadelphia Ordinance (1789), Library Company of Philadelphia Collection  
Philadelphia (Pa.). City Council. Petitions to the Select and Common Councils,  
Collection 1002  
Philadelphia City Council Minute book (1789-1793), Am .3570  
Philadelphia Committee on Markets Minutes (1729-1831), A m .3116

## **Bibliography**

City of Philadelphia. City Council Agency homepage,  
<http://www.phila.gov/phils/Docs/Inventor/graphics/agencies/A120.htm> (accessed 17  
May 2004)

## **Subjects**

Carters – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia  
Corporal punishment – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia  
Danger (Law) – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia  
Dangerous dogs – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia  
Dogs – Law and legislation  
Driving of horse-drawn vehicles – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia  
Horsemanship – Pennsylvania – Philadelphia  
Philadelphia (Pa.) – Laws, etc. (Ordinances of the city of Philadelphia)

Philadelphia (Pa.). City Council.  
Philadelphia (Pa.). Councils. Common Council.  
Philadelphia (Pa.). Mayor.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions**

The collection is open for research.

### **Acquisition information**

Gift of J.A. McAllister, 1882.

### **Alternative format**

None.

### **Preferred citation**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], Philadelphia (Pa.) City Council Ordinances (Am .347), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

### **Processing note**

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This collection was formerly known as Collection 1022.