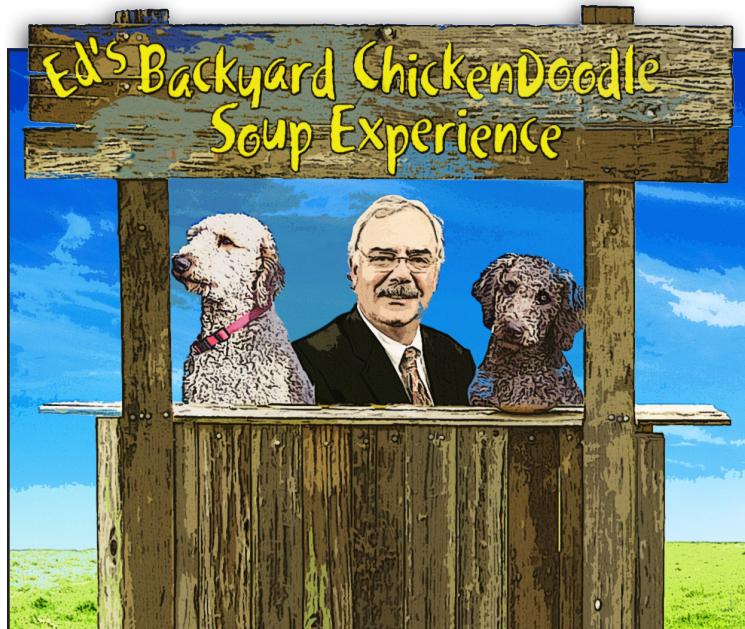


This Dog Ain't Dead Yet*

BY: ED TRUAX, TUALATIN CITY COUNCILOR

Those who have read my wife Nancy's "Dog Talk" missives will understand when I say that I have just about reached the end of my leash. But rather than wallow in the circus that daily life with the Labradoodles has become, I have decided to direct my energies in a positive way and start a new business called D.O.G.S. – Doodle Owners Grief Society. My goal for this new support group is to create a safe and nurturing place for afflicted doodle owners to understand that they are not bad people; they just made a bad choice in selecting a canine companion.



The first step called for in my business plan is to secure a business license from the City of Tualatin. As luck would have it, we may have a new protocol for securing said license. All I need to do now is check a box to avow that I will comply with every City, State and Federal law in effect today or that may become effective during my lifetime. I got this. If there is one thing I can do it is check a box. I do it all the time at the bottom of those ten thousand word Terms of Agreement things where I check "I Accept". I never actually read what I agree to, partly because it's too much trouble, but mostly because if I have little or no understanding about what is really

going on I can simply grin and make up my own facts as I go.

The most beautiful part about filling out my license application and checking the box is that the New World Order department at the City has let it be known they will believe ANYTHING I put on my application as long as my check clears. That's right, ANYTHING. Under most circumstances, they don't even check to see if I am telling the truth. But therein lies the rub, because there appear to be two circumstances under which they do check.

First, they will check if they don't like the name of my business (you can tell this is true because even I couldn't make it up). I got this one too. I have gone to great lengths to determine a business name that will fly under the radar which is one of the reasons I picked D.O.G.S.. Who could possibly have a problem with that? I considered and rejected calling my business "Ed's Backyard ChickenDoodle Soup Experience" even though my guess is this would slip through. The other name I rejected was "Lou and Ed's Killer Bud Junior Varsity Doodle Marching Band and Escadrille", rejected in part because it seems unwieldy, but mainly because of the investigation that would ensue.

Once the permit lady decides my business name merits more investigation (I hope she is not having a bad day when my application shows up) I could now have to PROVE that D.O.G.S. complies with all OSHA regulations, that my Worker's Comp. is up to date and figure out why both Doodles seem to have the same Social Security number. Proving I am a US Citizen shouldn't be too tough because I have a passport, but how will I afford what it will cost to prove I comply with the Federal Clean Air Act, every EPA regulation you can find, that I am not in a flood plain, that I comply the Barney-Frank Act and my Anti Money-Laundering certificate is up-to-date? I have been told that I may be able to short-cut some of this if the Doodles will paw-sign a statement that they do not intend to get stoned at meetings. Not having yet had a meeting, I don't know if they will sign or not.

The second circumstance that could invoke an investigation would be if it "came to the attention" of the permit lady that I may be in violation of

one of these rules. This can happen even AFTER my license is issued. What this appears to mean is we could now have a complaint-based business license system. I am thanking my lucky dogs that I don't own a crematorium or a mountain of rotting yard debris and food scraps. No one can anonymously accuse ME of fouling the air of our downtown or one of our neighborhoods. But what would I do if they did? How would I prove I am in compliance? What if it cost me my entire year's profits to fight what may be either a baseless accusation or an unfortunate fact? Will I get to keep my license while the permit lady investigates me? Am I presumed to be innocent or guilty as accused? Is this how we attract a vibrant business community?

It seems to me this new regulation should be scooped up and placed in a doody bag until a more common sense solution can be devised to address a problem we don't even have. I will let you know when we schedule our first meeting.

**If you hold a Business License in the City of Tualatin and this doesn't scare you, you are not paying attention. Even with an almost total lack of input from the Tualatin business community, the ordinance as first presented failed. For now! This craziness will be back in front of the City Council on December 9th.*



Ed Truax is not only Mr. Dog Lady, he's a 26 year resident of Tualatin and has served on City Council since 2001.