
August 13, 2025

Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
15470 Flight Path Drive.
Brooksville, FL 34604
ATTN: Commissioners

Re: Hernando County v. Jovite Palardis / Animal Services Case# 2023-19657

Dear Commissioners,

This firm has the pleasure of representing Jovite Palardis with regard to the above-referenced Animal Control Case which resulted in a Special Master's Order assessing a \$10,000.00 penalty per dog (\$20,000.00 total) against Mr. Palardis, together with \$140.00 in administrative costs, \$100.00 to the County Attorney and \$26.28 in mailing costs. Specifically, I am writing to request that you allow me to appear before you for your consideration in mitigating the penalty to Mr. Palardis.

The facts of the underlying case are undisputed. As reflected in the Special Master's Order, Mr. Palardis' two Pit Bulldogs dug under an adjoining fence gaining access to the Complainant's property, entered into a livestock pen and attacked their animals. "The dogs were shot dead by the Complainant." A female cow with a calf and a goat were killed by the dogs as a result of the attack. Three other animals were injured. According to the Animal Control Officer, Mr. Palardis indicated that his dogs were scared from a storm, which caused them to become agitated and escape his yard.

The Special Master's Order also indicates that Mr. Palardis failed to appear at the hearing. The hearing proceeded and the Special Master took testimony from the Complainants and Animal Services before rendering his Order assessing the penalties.

Mr. Palardis' absence was not the result of contempt for the process or his intentional unwillingness to participate. Mr. Palardis had several serious health issues at the time, which created some confusion as to when he was supposed to attend the hearing. This is reflected in his attempt to appeal the Special Master's Order. Mr. Palardis is not an attorney but attempted to represent himself during the appeal. Ultimately, the appeal was dismissed, partially due to Mr. Palardis' inexperience with the legal process.

Mr. Palardis is willing to be held accountable but does not have the means to pay a penalty in the amount of \$20,000.00. Mr. Palardis has been determined to be one-hundred (100%) percent disabled as a result of service-related disabilities, including PTSD and exposure to Agent Orange. Specifically, Mr. Palardis served the United States as a Navy Seal in active combat during the Vietnam War. While serving in Vietnam, Mr. Palardis was the recipient of several combat-service connected honors, including two (2) combat action ribbons and a Meritorious Service Award. Mr. Palardis is seventy-six (76) years of age and is currently a retired, home-bound disabled adult.

Another piece of information which may be of relevance to you in considering this request is the fact that the Complainants in the underlying Animal Control matter brought a separate action in County Court (rightfully so) to recover their monetary damages as a result of the attack. Mr. Palardis did not dispute the claim, and a judgment was entered in October 2023 in the amount of \$6,700.00. Mr. Palardis has been making payments of \$50.00 per month to satisfy this obligation.

In light of all of the facts and circumstances in this matter, including Mr. Palardis' poor health, 100% disability classification, service to our country, his age and his home-bound status, we are respectfully requesting that the Hernando BOCC exercise compassion and mercy in this matter, and reduce the assessed penalty. We feel that an appropriate penalty in this matter would be \$2,500.00 per dog, for a total penalty of \$5,000.00.

Mr. Palardis and I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to come before the BOCC to present this request before the Board.

Respectfully,

George G. Angeliadis

George G. Angeliadis, Esq.