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Dear Riverside County and Los Angeles Officials:

I write to urge rigorous prosecution in the case of Glynn Johnson, a Los Angeles County Assistant Fire Chief on administrative leave for allegedly killing his Riverside neighbor's shepherd mix puppy. Karley's critical injuries led to her euthanasia. She was six months old.

Brandon Toole found his family's dog battered and bloody. Evidently, Karley had dashed across several lawns, including Johnson's. Another neighbor, Travis Staggs, had begun to lead Karley home when Johnson reportedly struck her with a closed fist some 12 times and pounded her with an 11-inch rock.

Johnson claimed self-defense. More likely, Karley behaved as any puppy would in response to harsh handling. In fact, Jeff Toole claims Johnson's thumb was punctured as he busted Karley's jaw.

I suggest law enforcers and emergency responders learn to distinguish anxiety, fear and protective canine behaviors (barking, growling, nipping) from genuine hostility. All officers should be trained to neutralize animals perceived as aggressive — without resorting to lethal force.

I respectfully ask the Riverside County District Attorney to charge Johnson with malicious and intentional injuring of an animal. Please seek maximum felony penalties, including incarceration and a fine. If Johnson is convicted, he should be barred from contact with animals and ordered to undergo psychiatric evaluation and therapy.

I also encourage the Los Angeles Fire Chief to terminate Johnson's job, or at the very least, suspend him until all legal actions conclude.

Violence against animals is a well-documented precursor to violence against humans. The American Psychiatric Association lists animal cruelty as a key trait for conduct disorders. ASPCA's Randall Lockwood, Ph.D. — who aids cruelty investigators, law enforcers and court officials — identifies animal abusers who project blame onto their victims as "repeat offenders...resistant to intervention."

Please consider the brutality in Johnson's actions and proceed with criminal charges. I look forward to any updates in this disturbing case.

Thank you,