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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 28, 2022

BLIGHT ENFORCEMENT IN EAST BAY TOWNSHIP UNCOVERS ANIMAL NEGLECT

The 86th District Court for the County of Grand Traverse issued a court order holding a property owner in civil contempt, assessing fines, and directing the property owner to clean up all blight in violation of the East Bay Township Junk Ordinance.

The Court Order, File No. 20-G218096-ON-1, further states that if "all junk....is not removed from the property to the satisfaction of the Grand Traverse County Sheriff and/or the Sheriff's Deputy Enforcement Officer(s) assigned to East Bay Charter Township for Ordinance No. 2005-4, then East Bay Township shall have the right to enter upon Defendant's property by and through its employees, agents, contractors and/or servants to clean up the property so it complies with Ordinance No. 2005-4..."

As the owner has not addressed the issues outlined in the Court Order within the time established by the Court and is in violation of the Ordinance, on Friday, January 28, 2022, in an operation to bring the property into compliance, East Bay Township, its contractor and Community Police Officer, with support from Grand Traverse County Health Department's Animal Control, and the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Office, entered the site and took measures to clean up the property as allowed.

Upon arriving at the property, located on Supply Road in East Bay Township, while removing unlicensed and unregistered vehicles contributing to the blight, approximately 20 canines were discovered in the elements without proper food and water, with initially one deceased canine found. Upon entering the home with consent of a resident, approximately 100 canines were found inside the roughly 1150 sq ft home. Appropriate veterinarians are onsite.

Please refer to East Bay Township Ordinance No. 2005-4, known as the Junk Ordinance, which is attached and can be found at eastbaytwp.org. For further comment, please contact the above contacts. The following staff were instrumental in conducting this operation: East Bay Township Zoning Administrator Preston Taylor (ptaylor@eastbaytwp.org 231.947.3631, ext.3) and Animal Control Supervisor Jaime Croel.

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