



MEMO

TO: Stephanie Reyes, City Manager
FROM: Yvonne Palacios, Neighborhood Commission Liaison
DATE: September 24, 2024
RE: **Neighborhood Commission Recommendation Resolution 2024-03RR-NH**

SUMMARY:

Recommendation Resolution No. 2024-03RR-NH was passed by the Neighborhood Commission on September 18, 2024. The purpose of this Recommendation is to study the effects of white-tailed deer on the community and to create a public awareness campaign on the dangers of feeding deer.

BACKGROUND:

March 20, 2024 – The Neighborhood Commission held a discussion regarding prohibition on deer feeding.

April 17, 2024 – The Neighborhood Commission discussed and voted in favor to invite an external guest speaker regarding options cities have regarding the management of urban deer population.

May 15, 2024 – The Neighborhood Commission welcomed Guest Speaker, Joseph Plappert, Urban Wildlife Biologist/Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to receive a presentation/discussion on options cities may have regarding management of urban deer population.

August 4, 2024 – Commissioner Eby sent an email requesting the deer ordinance discussion remain on the agenda. Chair, Commissioner Michael Adams, supported the request.

August 21, 2024 – The Neighborhood Commission discussed, with possible action, moving forward a Recommendation Resolution of the management of urban deer population/prohibition on deer feeding. The Neighborhood Commission voted for city staff to create a public awareness campaign regarding the impact of feeding deer. Vote passed with 7 Yeas – Darla Munoz, Robert Eby, Larry Mock, Bobbie Garza-Hernandez, Michael Adams, Michael Vernon and Heidi Holliday Mckitrick. 3 Nays – Cory Holland, Jai C. Whiteside and Daniel Martinez. Absent – Estella Enriquez.

September 18, 2024 – The Neighborhood Commission discussed with possible action the draft Recommendation Resolution for studying the effects of white-tailed deer on the community and to create a public awareness campaign on the dangers of feeding deer. Vote passed with 8 Yeas – Darla Munoz, Robert Eby, Larry Mock, Bobbie Garza-Hernandez, Michael Adams, Estella Enriquez, Michael Vernon and Jai C. Whiteside. 1 Nay – Daniel Martinez. Absent – Cory Holland and Heidi Holliday Mckitrick. Approved Recommendation Resolution 2024-03RR-NH.

Implementation: Commissioners initially discussed a ban on deer feeding but realized a sudden ban on deer feeding might be too harsh and would include assistance from several departments to include employee education, time and possible additional funding. The Commission discussed starting with an education and awareness plan and asks to gain support from the city/city staff to develop and create a public awareness campaign regarding the impact of feeding deer that could be shared across various media platforms. The Commissioners agree that the problem goes beyond landscaping and/or deer collisions but more importantly, the public health, deer health and informing the public about wildlife inside of an urban area.

END