

**CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
DEER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

NAME Allen Decker COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

DATE 2-12-09

ROCHESTER HILLS RESIDENT FOR 30 YEARS

OCCUPATION Civil/ Structural Engineer, Owner of AR Decker & Associates, Inc., Troy, MI

INTERESTS/REASONS/QUALIFICATIONS

I live in Christian Hills, backing up to woods/wetlands, and have witnessed first hand the growth of the deer population and its effects on the woodland and subdivision environment, including the arrival of a coyote population. Witnessed death of deer due to summer 2008 insect problem. Have witnessed deer/car collisions

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION REGARDING THE 2009 DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY?

The deer culling operation is necessary, as the population is at an unhealthy number. Most Rochester Hills residents are unaware of the howling/crying during coyote deer kills, or the number of fawns that are abandoned each spring by their mothers, or that residents are responsible for burying dead deer on their properties. Additional education efforts should be made regarding the negative effects of a large deer population. The deforestation of the underbrush in the woodland areas (due to very hungry deer feeding habits) has also allowed invasive plant species to thrive, and these are also spread by the deer.

WHAT SOLUTIONS/SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER FOR THE 2010 DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY?

Continuation of the culling operation is essential – perhaps even on private tracts along the Clinton River. Citizens opposed to the culling cannot be allowed to hinder or halt the authorized and court-approved operation by walking in the woods, loitering on the bike trails, or staging protests during the culling. Education about the effects of over-population is extremely important to gain widespread citizen approval or tolerance to the point that the minority is properly overruled by the majority. Perhaps even filming a coyote kill, with audio, may help to convince some citizens that a controlled professional cull is much more humane. The number of injured/maimed deer that survive being hit by cars has risen, providing easy prey for the coyotes.

PERTINENT EDUCATION

BS and MS degrees. Attended seminar on deer management in northern Michigan. Was raised on a farm, but have never been a hunter of any animals. Almost involved in several deer-car accidents, which is a real educational experience.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Member of NSPE (National Society of Professional Engineers), Michigan State University Alumni Association, SEMBOIA (Southeast Michigan Building Officials and Inspectors Association) Honorary Member, Associate Member of SE Michigan Builders Association, St. Irenaeus Church parish member, past Little League Coach

BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES ON WHICH YOU HAVE SERVED (LIST MUNICIPALITIES AND DATES)

Avon Township Assessors Board of Review (1980s), Rochester Hills Construction Board of Appeals (current, for 10-12 years), Clinton Township Construction Board of Appeals (current, 4 years)

ELECTIVE OFFICES THAT YOU HAVE HELD

Christian Hills Subdivision Association Board, architectural control committee

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For 30 years, from my backyard deck, I have studied the growth of the deer population from a few in the 1980s to as many as 40 trying to feed from my gardens in the 2000s. In the past I have rescued abandoned fawns and have been amazed by the dexterity of 3 legged deer, and now, tragically, have seen them ravaged by coyotes.

Please send completed form to: City of Rochester Hills, Clerk's Office, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 or fax to 248.656.4744
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