



**City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

1000 Rochester Hills Dr.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
248.656.4630
www.rochesterhills.org

Legislative File No: 2009-0061

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Greg Hooper, Council President
DATE: February 5, 2009
SUBJECT: Deer Management Advisory Committee to provide recommendations for 2010

The subject of Deer Management has been on City Council's Specific Items List since the beginning of 2007, as well as part of their Goals and Objectives in 2008. In 2008 the subject of Deer Management appeared on the June, July, September and November Council Agendas. Numerous public comments were received in 2008 from residents requesting that City Council proceed with a plan for deer management.

At the June 9, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting, a Presentation on the Deer Population in Rochester Hills was on the Agenda. Lance DeVoe and Representatives from the DNR Wildlife Division and Law Enforcement were the presenters.

At the July 21, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting, Discussion regarding the management of the Deer Population in Rochester Hills was on the Agenda and **City Council Resolved** to: Receive the report and direct the Administration to draft individual implementation plans within thirty days for the following six items listed in the report:

1. Enact a citywide wildlife feeding ban ordinance to eliminate feeding stations for deer. This could deter deer from grazing on neighborhood vegetation on their way to these feeding stations and reduce the supplemental food supply that encourages population increases.
2. Provide an increased educational component on fencing options and repellants for homeowners to help them protect their property from deer damage. This could include packets of information, website information, programs at the Environmental Educational Center (EEC) or at homeowner association meetings, newspaper articles, etc.
3. Make improvements to the city's signage warning motorists of deer crossing areas that could potentially reduce deer-vehicle collisions.
4. Impose a three-year moratorium beginning October 1, 2008, on our bow-hunting ordinance and follow the MDNR guidelines for private property only. This could be used on a trial basis to determine its effectiveness. No hunting would be allowed on city property.
5. Continue to conduct a yearly flyover to count the deer population and evaluate the effectiveness of the programs.
6. Continue to monitor the deer-vehicle collisions in our community by using data from SEMCOG.

At the September 15, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting, Acceptance for First Reading – an Ordinance to add Article III, Deer Management, to Chapter 14, Animals, of the Code of Ordinances of

the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, to prohibit deer feeding, repeal conflicting Ordinances, and prescribe a penalty for violations was on the Agenda and **City Council Accepted this Ordinance for First Reading**. In addition, Discussion regarding the Administration's Proposed Deer Management Implementation Plan was also on the Agenda. Included in the packet of information was the proposal from the Oakland County Sheriff Office.

At the September 22, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting, Acceptance for Second Reading and Adoption – an Ordinance to add Article III, Deer Management, to Chapter 14, Animals, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, to prohibit deer feeding, repeal conflicting Ordinances, and prescribe a penalty for violations was on the Agenda and **City Council Accepted this Ordinance for Second Reading and Adoption**.

At the November 17, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting, Update on the Community-Wide Deer Situation was on the Agenda and **City Council Resolved** to: hereby directs that:

1. The Administration continue with the educational component for Deer Management.
2. The Administration pursue grants for improved signage, reflectors and fencing as roadside deterrents for known deer crossings.
3. The Administration continue to perform annual Deer Count surveys.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council hereby directs that a controlled culling operation be conducted with the Oakland County Sheriff's Special Response Team for the 2008-2009 season, subject to the following conditions:

1. Safety will be the number one priority in all respects.
2. No private residential or commercial property will be utilized.
3. Number of permits will not exceed 200 for this operation.
4. The harvested deer meat be donated and delivered to local food banks.
5. The scope, timing and locations to be developed and coordinated jointly with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Oakland County Sheriff and Rochester Hills Parks and Forestry personnel.
6. The Sheriff's operation will be conducted at no cost to Rochester Hills.
7. The results to be reviewed in June 2009 along with Vehicle/Deer Crash statistics and the Annual Deer Count Surveys to determine effectiveness for continuation of this option.

To help facilitate discussion, and as part of the Council's ongoing Goals and Objectives for 2010, I have attached proposed language outlining the creation of a Deer Management Advisory Committee for your consideration.
