

No. _____

MOTION OF THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Authorizing the posting of a dedicated webpage within County Council's website to give general information regarding white-tailed deer and potential solutions to problems associated with over-populations of white-tailed deer in local communities.

WHEREAS, there have been numerous citizen complaints regarding an overpopulation of white-tailed deer in Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS, injuries to persons from deer/car collisions as well as the destruction to gardens and park lands from large populations of foraging deer are the predominant but not only complaints made by citizens; and

WHEREAS, as reported from statistics from 2012-2014, Pennsylvania ranks fifth among all states for vehicular accidents involving deer, and last year alone contractors removed 10,500 deer from state roadways with the numbers increasing already this year; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the Pennsylvania Game Commission has ultimate control over wildlife in Pennsylvania, they also have information and tools that they provide to counties and municipalities when citizens perceive a problem with deer overpopulation in their area; and

WHEREAS, not many citizens are aware of the information that the PA Game Commission provides, and to find such information on a large commonwealth website can be daunting to some; and

WHEREAS, providing a condensed version of that information and easy-to-find links would better serve the interests of the citizens in Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS, such a dedicated page could also provide contact information and suggestions to start a dialogue with local representatives regarding a perceived problem which is not readily available through the PA Game Commission; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a white-tailed deer information page will serve as an educational tool for concerned citizens and for the 130 municipalities we serve and may be used to facilitate municipal solutions to problems caused by an overpopulation of deer in local communities within Allegheny County and can also serve to educate Council on how they can better serve their citizens with regards to this issue;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY,

Authorizes the posting of a dedicated webpage, represented by the attached document, within the County Council's website to give general information regarding white-tailed deer and potential solutions to problems associated with over-populations of white-tailed deer in local communities for the purpose of providing an educational tool for citizens to use to create a more effective dialogue with their elected representatives and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.


PRIMARY SPONSOR: COUNCIL MEMBER MEANS

Enacted in Council, this 25th day of September, 2015

Council Agenda No. 9014-15



John DeFazio
President of Council

Attest: 

Jared E. Barker
Chief Clerk
Allegheny County Council

Deer Management Information for Allegheny County Residents:

Overpopulation and perceived problems associated with concentrations of white-tailed deer in our communities is a topic of concern for many citizens in Allegheny County. There has been an effort on Council to reach out to the Pennsylvania Game Commission to better understand the available remedies available to address these concerns.

Because deer in Pennsylvania are under the jurisdiction of the Game Commission and management plans are often handled at the municipal level, the County is limited to deer management on County property. This page is designed to provide information for constituents so that a dialogue can be created on a local level to address problems a community may face, keeping in mind that each community is unique in their perceptions of problems associated with deer populations and their decisions to manage an identified problem.

What can I do at home?

- Do not purposely feed deer
- Grow deer resistant plants in your garden
- Apply deer repellent to plants/garden area
- Construct deer fence to keep deer out of a certain area
- Consult PA Game Commission deer management regulations and options for individual landowners
- Consult municipal representatives regarding community solutions such as feeding bans and community surveys

<http://www.ecode360.com/29496185?highlight=deer#29496185>

Further Reading: (LINKS)

Pennsylvania White-Tailed Deer Page

(<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/deer/11949>)

Pennsylvania Game Commission

A Guide to Community Deer Management in Pennsylvania (PDF link)

Pennsylvania Game Commission

Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments, A Technical Guide (PDF link)

Anthony J. DeNicola, Kurt C. VerCauteren, Paul D. Curtis, and Scott E. Hygnstrom

Community-Based Deer Management (PDF link)

Daniel J. Decker, Daniela B. Raik, and William F. Siemer

Examples of Community Deer Management:

Upper St. Clair Management Plan:

<http://www.twpusc.org/services/deer-management>

Update on Fox Chapel Management Plan: Scroll to Pg. 3 in Newsletter

http://www.fox-chapel.pa.us/pdf_files/newsletterfall2013.pdf

County Council Contact Information:

<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/council/members.aspx>