

RECEIVED

MAY 23 2016

City of Belvedere

May 21, 2016

Dear Members of the Belvedere City Council,

I would like to go on record as being opposed to the Belvedere deer sterilization plan as noted in the ARK newspaper article dated May 18, 2016.

First of all, one of the joys of living in Belvedere is our proximity to wildlife. The squirrels cannot tolerate a clean driveway so immediately they send me packages of pine cones and chewed pine branches. The raccoons share my compost bin, and the deer sometimes eat a plant I would of preferred they left alone. But all in all I would rather put up with an occasional annoyance rather than live without my wild creatures. And for the most part through planting natives and grasses and other deer resistant plants I have almost eliminated any problems.

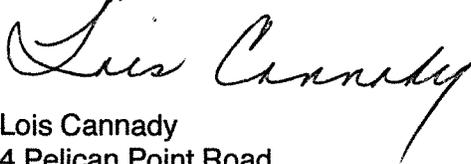
Secondly, I have concerns about the projected plan. It sounds inhumane and experimental to me. I think it will be very stressful for the deer. Also I question how a garage can be made clean enough to provide a sterile environment for a medical procedure.

I realize that this grassroots effort to lower the deer population has been going on for some time, but I personally feel that the situation is beginning to solve itself. I have experienced many less deer on my property this year. And I don't like the hurried approach to begin sterilization this Fall.

In closing, I question if what I consider a dramatic change that effects all Belvedere residents should be decided by a small group of influential people.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. I will be unable to attend the June 13th meeting of the Belvedere City Council as I will be in North Carolina for the high school graduation of my grandson.

Sincerely,



Lois Cannady
4 Pelican Point Road
Belvedere, CA 94920
(415) 435-1780
loiscannady3241@comcast.net

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: wyldrose4u2 <wyldrose4u2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 8:17 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: Leave Deer in Belvedere alone

Please provide a copy of this email to each counsel member.
Leave the deer alone!!!

They have just as much right if not more to live in that area as you do. It is not their fault you people have taken all their land and killed all their natural predators. I suggest you stop putting them at risk by thinking of only your selves, stop fencing them out, they need food and space, you have taken both. Show some respect people!!!

P.S. Why are there no emails for contacting each of the elected counsel members?

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 3:47 PM
To: All - City Council
Cc: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Deer Proposal

Council – See response to Dr. Rothman’s email from yesterday.

Mary Neilan, City Manager
City of Belvedere
450 San Rafael Ave.
Belvedere, CA 94920
(415) 435-3838
(415) 435-8906 (direct)

From: Wyman Harris [mailto:wymanharris1@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 9:02 AM
To: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Cc: Clair McAuliffe
Subject: Fwd: Deer Proposal

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anthony DeNicola
Date: May 23, 2016 at 2:15:32 PM PDT
To: Wyman Harris
Subject: Re: Deer Proposal

Wyman,

All good questions. See below replies:

I am interested in knowing, if you yet know, the following information:

1) Do you know whether agents of the contractor, those shooting the tranquilizer darts, would be permitted, against Home-owners wishes, to enter private property. This would seem to be quite relevant, because unlike the park, or retirement community settings described by the contractor, where each resident does not have authority over the particular areas where "darting" took place, in Belvedere 99% of the surface area of Belvedere is owned by private property owners, who might, or might not wish the proposed activity to take place on their property?

I have always had the impression that, at least in Belvedere, private property rights to prevent unwanted trespass are held to be of importance.

We do not dart from private property without permission. We dart from the public roads. A deer may be on private property when engaged, and will have to be retrieved from private property (likely). The community and

the leadership has to decide whether this is acceptable. We work closely with law enforcement or animal control to ensure the public is comfortable with our activities in the community. We have used this approach in every community listed on our summary sheet. If your community is not accepting of this method, then the project will not work. It is not trespassing to enter someone's property unless you are asked not to, or it is posted. Girl Scouts and salesmen enter private properties legally every day. Your neighbor may retrieve his/her basketball from your yard legally. If folks want to let the City know that they do not want to be part of the project, then we can very easily avoid their property for all aspects of the operation. This solution requires a community-based approach.

2) Do you know why Belvedere was described as not being subject to in-migration of "new", unsterilized deer, in light of the fact that Deer are well able to cross Tiburon Blvd, and the fact that Tiburon, itself, has many deer? Female deer are very philopatric and do not move much in the landscape. Most of our projects are in open suburban environments, with deer all around, and immigration has been negligible so far. This is very predictable based on deer behavior. The Villages (San Jose) has tagged deer that come and go through the front gate, and they have deer all around and by no means a deer-proof perimeter fence. There has been zero immigration for nearly 3 years.

3) The article in the Ark describes a situation wherein, in a community where the contractors had operated, there had been a progressive, year-to-year decrease in the number of deer. Could you tell me whether that decrease was due to a one-time sterilization in the first year, or whether the program took place in more than one of the 3 years to which the article made reference, and also, if the former is true, whether that community had the same kind of situation as Belvedere, where Deer can easily cross into Belvedere from Tiburon? See the sterilization summary sheet on our website. We typically capture 90-100% of the females in the first 2 years. We have on occasion had to return to handle a few immigrants, but very insignificant at this point. One of the research questions we are trying to answer is whether there a change in the "risk" of immigration as the deer population density declines.

4) Do you know how the contractors would be able to tell, in successive years, if further sterilization events were to be planned, how many of the deer who were potentially going to be tranquilized, in such successive years, might already have been tranquilized and sterilized in previous years? Would already-sterilized deer have signs painted on them that said something to the effect of "Already Sterilized"? Feel free to share on our past research proposals that detail how each deer is marked. All deer receive cattle ear tags and some also will be administered radio-collars (for tracking).

Regards,

Tony

Anthony J. DeNicola Ph.D. | President | White Buffalo Inc.

M: (860) 790-0224 | tony.denicola@whitebuffaloinc.org

Find Us: whitebuffaloinc.org | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

On Mon, May 23, 2016 at 2:15 PM, Wyman Harris wrote:
FYI and comment.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Claire McAuliffe

Subject: Fwd: Deer Proposal

Date: May 23, 2016 at 11:03:48 AM PDT

To: Wyman Harris; Marshall Turner; Frank Greene; John and Dawn Owen

Initial questions from a resident.

Claire McAuliffe
[415-250-8218](tel:415-250-8218)

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <cmcauliffe@cityofbelvedere.org>

From: Bill Rothman

Date: May 23, 2016 at 10:13:46 AM PDT

To: Mary Neilan - City Manager <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>

Cc: Sandra Donnell - Councilmember <sdonnell@cityofbelvedere.org>, Marty Winter-Councilmember <mwinter@cityofbelvedere.org>, James Campbell - Vice Mayor <jcampbell@cityofbelvedere.org>, Claire McAuliffe - Mayor

<cmcauliffe@cityofbelvedere.org>, Bob McCaskill - Councilmember

<bmccaskill@cityofbelvedere.org>, Matthew Hose

<MHose@thearknewspaper.com>, "arodriguez@marinij.com"

<arodriguez@marinij.com>

Subject: Re: Deer Proposal

From Bill Rothman

Dear Ms. Neilan:

I ask that the research that is being done by City Staff, include, as well as other matters decided upon by City Staff, the matters to which the content of my email drew attention.

Thank you.

Best Wishes,

Bill Rothman

On 5/23/2016 8:19 AM, Mary Neilan - City Manager wrote:

Dr. Rothman,

I do not have answers to your questions at this time. Staff has just begun to gather information about this proposal.

Mary Neilan, City Manager

City of Belvedere

450 San Rafael Ave.

Belvedere, CA 94920

[\(415\) 435-3838](tel:(415)435-3838)

[\(415\) 435-8906](tel:(415)435-8906) (direct)

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Rothman

Sent: Monday, May 23, 2016 7:26 AM

To: Mary Neilan - City Manager

Cc: Sandra Donnell - Councilmember; Marty Winter-Councilmember; James Campbell - Vice Mayor; Claire McAuliffe - Mayor; Bob McCaskill - Councilmember; Matthew Hose; arodriguez@marinij.com

Subject: Deer Proposal

From Bill Rothman

Dear Ms. Neilan:

I am interested in knowing, if you yet know, the following information:

1) Do you know whether agents of the contractor, those shooting the tranquilizer darts, would be permitted, against Home-owners wishes, to enter private property. This would seem to be quite relevant, because unlike the park, or retirement community settings described by the contractor, where each resident does not have authority over the particular areas where "darting" took place, in Belvedere 99% of the surface area of Belvedere is owned by private property owners, who might, or might not wish the proposed activity to take place on their property?

I have always had the impression that, at least in Belvedere, private property rights to prevent unwanted trespass are held to be of importance.

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3) The article in the Ark describes a situation wherein, in a community where the contractors had operated, there had been a progressive, year-to-year decrease in the number of deer. Could you tell me whether that decrease was due to a one-time sterilization in the first year, or whether the program took place in more than one of the 3 years to which the article made reference, and also, if the former is true, whether that community had the same kind of situation as Belvedere, where Deer can easily cross into Belvedere from Tiburon?

4) Do you know how the contractors would be able to tell, in successive years, if further sterilization events were to be planned, how many of the deer who were potentially going to be tranquilized, in such successive years, might already have been tranquilized and sterilized in previous years? Would already-sterilized deer have signs painted on them that said something to the effect of "Already Sterilized"?

Thank you for your attention.

Best Wishes,

Bill Rothman

RECEIVED

MAY 25 2016

City of Belvedere

Belvedere City Council
Belvedere City Hall
450 San Rafael Avenue
Belvedere, CA 94920

RE: Deer Sterilization Plan

May 20, 2016

Dear Council Members,

I am a 36-year resident of Belvedere. I am writing to urge you to get more community feedback before approving the proposed deer sterilization plan.

My own initial reaction to the plan was negative. I had the following concerns:

Are there really 60 female deer in the city? It seems like there should be an accurate count if the plan is to sterilize a percentage. I have seen groups of deer in certain parts of the Island, but the quoted estimates of deer population seem exaggerated.

Are the deer that much of a hazard? The public should be warned to avoid female deer in June when the fawns are born, but my own experience has been that the deer turn away if I encounter one when out walking or if I approach one slowly when driving.

Are the deer eating all vegetation in some part of Belvedere? We do not have a fence around our property, and do see deer in the yard periodically. During the drought roses and agapanthus definitely appealed to the deer and were consumed, also the ivy, although only in the last year. But even after four years of drought the deer did not touch the Abelia, the Texanum Privet, the Cape Plumbago, the Jasmine, the Rhododendrons, the Creeping Fig, the Bougainvillea, the Honeysuckle, or Bamboo.

Finally, is this a worthwhile effort? We're not going to eliminate all deer and all fences. This is a vegetation-rich area and I would guess we will always have deer. People who want a garden with lots of flowers will probably always need a fence. I have seen many fences pop up on hillsides where there was nothing for the deer to eat, and I think these fences have more to do with privacy and security concerns. It used to be that there were few fences in Belvedere, but our city has changed.

Thank you for your attention,

Sheila Golden
370 Bella Vista Avenue
Belvedere



RECEIVED

MAY 26 2016

City of Belvedere

Mimi Ganz

111 Bayview Avenue
Belvedere, CA 94920
415-889-5242
Daisybugg21@aol.com

May 25, 2016

Mary Neilan, City Manager
Belvedere City Hall
450 San Rafael Avenue
Belvedere, CA 94920

Dear Ms. Neilan,

When I read the May 18, 2016 edition of The Ark Newspaper I was shocked to read the front page story entitled "Plan to sterilize deer in Belvedere gaining traction". At first I thought this was one of The Ark's April Fools' jokes, then sadly I realized it was not.

When we purchased our home in Belvedere over eight years ago we were well aware that deer inhabited this area long before us and that we would need to coexist with them. We were advised to plant deer resistant plants or fence in our yard. We have done both and have had no problems. I am aware that due to recent draught conditions the deer have had to adapt and have eaten some deer resistant plants. Under dire conditions we as humans would learn to adapt as well.

Are we really going to target the does...defenseless, gentle, nurturing, and social animals for the sake of a few unsightly fences or missing vegetation on someone's property?! I did not move to the City of Belvedere to possibly face innocent deer being hauled away, tranquilized, carted off to some neighbor's garage and have ovarietomies performed! 1-2% of the deer die during the capture process. During the ovarietomy there could be excessive bleeding, infection, pain and stress on these innocent creatures. The thought of this is cruel and outrageous. Please consult with the Marin Humane Society and WildCare of San Rafael, neither organization thinks this is a very good idea.

The California state Department of Fish and Wildlife see this as an "experiment" and the 2016 Deer Group are hoping for more support for their project by "framing it as a research-based experiment". Our beloved deer do not need to be guinea pigs for research or experiments. I beg you to not let sterilization of deer take place in our backyard.

Sincerely yours,



Mimi Ganz

cc: Claire McAuliffe, Mayor

James Campbell, Vice Mayor

Sandra Donnell, Council Member

Bob McCaskill, Council Member

Marty White, Council Member



May 27, 2016

Mary Neilan
City Manager
City of Belvedere
450 San Rafael Ave.
Belvedere, CA 94920-2336

Dear Mary,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our expertise and insight to the City of Belvedere regarding the current "deer issue" as described in the ARK newspaper on May 18, 2016 and our subsequent phone conversation with you. We believe our comments on this issue reflect our extensive history of providing animal services to Marin County and the City of Belvedere. As always, we look forward to assisting your City in the process of reviewing the issues deer are creating in Belvedere.

In December 2007 our agency was requested to provide information to the City of Belvedere regarding coexistence strategies for communities living with deer. We initially spoke to the Belvedere-Tiburon Mayor/Vice Mayor meeting in March 2008 and provided general information on living with deer. As a result of that meeting we initiated a new deer coexistence flyer for residents, published wildlife coexistence materials for the City of Belvedere website, and offered to coordinate a public meeting on living with deer. When the Belvedere Deer Committee was formed in 2009 we were requested to take part in every meeting which we graciously accepted. Each meeting provided a public venue to hear about the deer issues and many of the solutions to mitigate further problems. An array of speakers from outside agencies, businesses and other experts provided deeper insight into the various remedies of many of the perceived problems caused by deer. The City authorized money to hire a local environmental company to independently assess the issue and make a recommendation. The final recommendation by this firm validated our recommendations as well as those made by our local wildlife rehabilitation center WildCare. We believe the deer committee took a fair approach to create a balanced plan that would serve both sides of the deer issue, while upholding coexistence strategies that have been proven to work throughout Marin County, including areas of Belvedere.

At the request of the Belvedere Police Chief we recently provided our updated statistics on all of our deer-related calls for service to Belvedere from 2013 to 2015. Interestingly, but not surprising to us, there were less calls for service compared to 2008 to 2010. While these numbers only document the activity from our animal services

department, they do not reflect calls for information, visits to our website or inquiries to other local wildlife experts for information or service.

We do not feel there has been a substantial increase in the number of deer in Belvedere (or any other area in Marin County) that would require the necessity to consider such an extreme tactic as doe sterilization. While we advocate non-lethal methods of wildlife management when faced with solutions to documented problems (public safety, coexistence issues, disease issues, etc.) we do not have any information that the issues with deer in Belvedere would require such a remedy at this time. As the only animal services contractor in Marin and all of its cities, we respond to handle sick, injured and dead wildlife everywhere except removal of dead wildlife from state highways. We have not seen the health of deer in Belvedere, or other parts of Marin, decline to the levels that would be consistent with overpopulation concerns.

While we applaud the ability of Belvedere residents to reform a new Deer Group to examine the issues and make recommendations to the City of Belvedere, we are concerned that local expertise on wildlife issues, specifically to our native deer, weren't sought out prior to making this an issue for the City Council to address. While we work closely with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), we are an independent non-profit that has no affiliation with HSUS. We urge you and the City Council to commit the time and resources needed to adequately investigate this proposal. We are deeply concerned that the perceived problems created by deer in Belvedere do not justify the proposed extreme tactics. There are many solutions available before the justification for sterilization is even contemplated. The landscape of Belvedere and private property issues will make such a project difficult to do in a completely humane method, there is a high likelihood that deer will die in the process, and the public within and beyond Belvedere will no doubt be outraged.

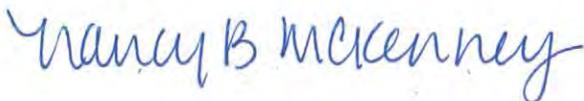
As we have seen throughout Marin and within Belvedere, our wildlife species are extremely adaptable, they thrive when their natural habitat changes, and they respond very positively to simple coexistence strategies. Fortunately, Belvedere and other Marin residents have the ability to take advantage of a multitude of local expert wildlife organizations. In addition to our organization, residents as well as municipalities can receive assistance in solving wildlife coexistence issues from the simplest to the most complex. We urge the City of Belvedere and residents facing wildlife coexistence challenges to take advantage of our expertise and knowledge. We believe these partnerships are vital to continue keeping wildlife wild and preventing potential negative coexistence impacts with the wild animals that share our spaces.

Finding the proper coexistence balance between the deer and Belvedere residents shouldn't be costly and/or complicated. With any wildlife management strategy it is imperative to understand the local dynamics and how the strategies we use best fit the remedy of the perceived problem. While non-lethal contraception and surgery has made great strides in the past decade, overall it is still an area filled with risk and is only used as a last resort. We believe that the deer issues in Belvedere are far from the spectrum that would support advocating for this method. The amount of money spent on such a

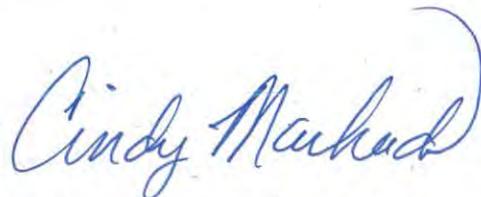
complex project would be better served towards examining the types of problems and easier and less expensive solutions.

The Marin Humane Society would like to be an active participant in assisting with the investigation and selection of any and all projects aimed at deer coexistence issues, whether they are privately or publicly funded. We believe that we will be impacted to provide assistance with any plan that the City of Belvedere considers. As such, we want to have a proactive role in voicing our concerns, suggesting appropriate recommendations and receiving more information on any proposed plans to deal with Belvedere deer. If there is any information that has already been presented to you we would appreciate receiving it as well as being kept informed on future plans on this topic. We look forward to working with you and would be happy to address any questions or concerns you may have. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nancy B. McKenney, MNPL, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer



Captain Cindy Machado, CAWA
Director of Animal Services