

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Post in Nextdoor

On 7/2/16, 12:29 AM, "Wyman Harris" wrote:

>Okay so - I am not prone to hysterics, but I was walking my 14 year-old
>beagle today, just above St Stephen's, and this deer (see picture) ran
>ahead of us on the opposite side of the road before crossing the road
>and approaching us from an uphill position, and seriously attacked my
>dog, ramming him with her front hooves and then turned her attention
>toward me. I was not taking this deer aggression seriously until this
>happened today, and suffice it to say - it was a frightening and
>confronting situation where the deer had absolutely no fear of me,
>despite my raising my arms and yelling with my most assertive voice.
>She went for my beagle three times and was coming at me with intent.
>Thankfully I was able to flag a car (thank you to the sweet young man
>who dropped us down the
>hill) - though the deer was still circling the car as we got in. I
>spoke to the Marin Humane Society and they tell me it is foaling season
>and the mother was probably protecting her young, though the babies
>were nowhere to be seen. I don't want anything other than for people to
>be aware - keep your children far away and do not think the deer will
>run from you - or ignore you - especially when they are approaching
>from up a hill. (I went back in my car to take the attached photo. I am
>99.9% certain this was the same deer, not that it matters)
>
>Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:46 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Aggressive deer

From: Wyman Harris <boater54@aol.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 12:35 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, George Gnos <ggnoss@gnossoffice.com>, Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Frank Greene <fpg@belcap.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: Aggressive deer



Aggressive Deer 14 Apr 15

Elizabeth Needham from Belvedere

My husband, myself and our two rhodesian ridgebacks just got back from a VERY scary walk around the island. We came across a female deer who, literally stalked us for ten minutes. When we first approached her she was walking in the brush above the road. Our dogs, upon seeing her started to bark and pull at their leashes. RR are large, powerful dogs. With considerable effort, we restrained them and proceeded to continue our walk. The deer hopped down from the brush onto the road and began following us. We tried to yell for her to go away and she would have none of it. The dogs were going nuts, I was peeing in my pants I was so freaked out and the deer just continued to stare at us menacingly. I have read earlier posts about aggressive deer but have never experienced it until now. Besides letting you all know to be on the lookout, I'm wondering if anyone has any advice as to how to more effectively deal with the situation should it arise again.

Shared with Belvedere + 10 nearby neighborhoods in [Crime & Safety](#)

THANK 9 REPLY 62

[Donna](#), [Judith](#), [Sue](#), and 6 others thanked [Elizabeth](#)

[View all 62 replies](#)

Valerie Shore from Hurricane Gulch 19 Apr 15

Our rhody was gored by a buck. Very scary. It is their nature to go after a deer. The deer should have run off. Odd.

hank Flag

[lizabeth](#) thanked [Valerie](#)

Kevin Farnham from Belvedere 19 Apr 15

his happened to my mother while walking my Vizsla as well.5

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:47 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Deer encounter

From: Wyman Harris <boater54@aol.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 12:40 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, George Gness <ggnoss@gnossoffice.com>, Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Frank Greene <fpg@belcap.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: Deer encounter

Belvedere14 May 14

We have been dealing with the deer problem for years! Do you remember the formation of the Deer Committee? I cannot believe that someone told you to let the dog OFF leash! Have you ever seen a dog chase a deer? I have and there is no sense in the dog, he/she is driven and runs with one thing in mind - PREY! That means there could be an accident if a car hit the dog, deer or both. That is CRAZY. Good luck in getting your dog back once the chase starts. Been there done that. I've tried whistles but they don't work. I think a stick is the best defense, sadly.

Thank Flag

[Robyn T. Murphy](#) from Belvedere14 May 14

interesting. I just dropped the lead when we were cornered, hoping my dog would run away (I've got the wimpy variety), but the deer had him on the ground so quickly - my dog rolled down an embankment and the deer went after him and had him on his back again going at him with his hooves - I do not exaggerate - I thought he was going to be killed. I THINK the idea of letting them off-lead is to separate them from you - but I'm actually not sure, that's just a presumption

Thank Flag

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:47 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Neighborhood post

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 12:48 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, George Gnos <ggnoss@gnossoffice.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Frank Greene <FrankG@belcap.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: Neighborhood post

Jennette L. from Belvedere 13 May 14

Oh dear, Robyn! Glad you guys are ok, if a little shaken, Thank you for sharing. I never have seen such aggressive deer as I've seen here. I think it is a good thing you shared this with us. Thank you.

Thank Flag

[Robyn T.](#) thanked Jennette

Mimi Levison from Belvedere 13 May 14

You are not hysterical. The deer problem is escalating.

Thank Flag

[Robyn T.](#) thanked [Mimi](#)

Kate Baker from Belvedere 14 May 14

Multiple deer on Corinthian Island as well. Equally dangerous and aggressive.

Thank Flag

[Robyn T.](#) thanked [Kate](#)

Barth Dixon from Belvedere 14 May 14

Welcome to spring time in Belvedere! Hopefully, City officials take note. I know there are many more experiences like yours yet to be published. As with any large population of wildlife in a densely populated area with no predators or disease (to speak of), it is the survival of the aggressive! Lucky the crows aren't aggressive. Take care, your beagle is lovely.

Thank Flag

[Robyn T.](#) thanked [Barth](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:47 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Doe on Buckeye

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 12:52 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, George Gnos <ggnos@gnossoffice.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Frank Greene <FrankG@belcap.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>, Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>
Subject: Doe on Buckeye

Robin Moore from Belvedere 14 May 14

That same deer went after me last Friday. She comes charging down from Tamalpais. She has been hanging around the intersection of Tamalpais, Golden Gate and Buckeye. I was not even going in her direction when I heard something and looked behind and there was this HUGE deer running towards me with fire in her eyes. I dashed behind that brick pillar on Buckeye dragging my dogs with me. I tried to make a phone call for help. I stayed calm and after awhile I heard her hooves retreating down the hill next to the first house on Buckeye. People laugh when I tell them about these experiences. Bambi wouldn't do that they say. Oh yes she would! I plan on staying clear of that intersection. I have seen her baby and it is very little. I saw two more little ones but I cannot remember where I was. So yes it is Spring and the mothers are on patrol. If you don't have dogs, they don't go after you.

Thank Flag
[Robyn T.](#) thanked [Robin](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:48 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Buck & 3 doe on Peninsula

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 12:56 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, George Gnos <ggnos@gnossoffice.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Frank Greene <fpg@belcap.com>, Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: Buck & 3 doe on Peninsula

Tari Nix from Belvedere 14 May 14

On my way to the gym the other morning, I encountered a buck & 3 doe on Peninsula Road. The buck stood his ground & I assumed the submissive pose and they moved on toward Beach Road. I was alone & did not have a dog with me. There is evidence of deer scat in the area. It is dry in the hills so they are foraging locally on well managed lawns & gardens.

Thank Flag

Robyn T. thanked Tari

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:48 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Serious problem in Belvedere

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 12:59 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, Frank Greene <FrankG@belcap.com>, George Gnos <ggnos@gnossoffice.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>, Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>
Subject: Serious problem in Belvedere

[Annette Pocica](#) from Belvedere 14 May 14

When is the City going to do something about this serious problem in Belvedere? I have had many encounters with deer while walking my dog. The deer are too aggressive and it is just a matter of time until someone is seriously injured.

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:48 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Demand for a solution

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 1:15 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, George Gnos <ggnos@gnossoffice.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>, Frank Greene <fpg@belcap.com>
Subject: Demand for a solution

OD Parkinson from Belvedere 27 Apr 15

If the deer are the property of the state, it is necessary that the Belvedere and Tiburon Town governments inform the state they have a problem here they need to deal with. Please carry this forward. We need a solution.

Thank Flag

[James](#), [Chris](#), [Barth](#), and 1 other thanked [OD](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:48 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Venison stew

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 1:17 AM
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, George Gnos <ggnoss@gnossoffice.com>, Carolyn Hansen <carolynhansen102@gmail.com>, Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>, Frank Greene <fpg@belcap.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: Venison stew

Barth Dixon from Belvedere 23 Apr 15

Rob, I understood that the old timers in Tiburon ate a lot of venison stew. When the railroad yard shut down, Belvedere became infested.

Thank Flag

[Dominique](#) thanked [Barth](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:48 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Deer

From: Cam Baker <Cam@larkmead.com>
Date: Saturday, July 2, 2016 at 12:01 PM
To: Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>
Cc: "Bob McCaskill (bob@mccaskill.net)" <bob@mccaskill.net>, 'FPG' <fpg@belcap.com>, Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>, "Kate Baker (kate@bakers3811.com)" (kate@bakers3811.com)" <kate@bakers3811.com>, "Gnoss, George H. (ggnoss@gnossoffice.com)" <ggnoss@gnossoffice.com>, Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: RE: Deer

Claire, as Mayor and our leader can you take the lead on this and make progress now...Gnoss dog was attacked and injured in past. We have been threatened by bucks. See NYT article on sterilization and culling of wild stallions..best for the stallions

From: FPG [<mailto:fpg@belcap.com>]
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 6:25 PM
To: Mary Neilan <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Cc: Claire McAuliffe <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>; Bob McCaskill (bob@mccaskill.net) <bob@mccaskill.net>
Subject: Fwd: Deer

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Steckeast@aol.com
Date: July 1, 2016 at 2:58:13 PM PDT
To: sddonnell@earthlink.net
Cc: <fpg@belcap.com>
Subject: Deer

Hi Sandy,

I wanted you to know that my dog Rory and I were
attacked by a female deer at 2 PM at 5 corners

Had it not been

for the presence and help of two gardeners, we would

surely have been hurt. She came at us 3 times, even though we had tried to walk away. I think counting the deer is basically kicking the can down the road and someone is going to be injured in the meantime. I would ask that you and the other members of the council reconsider the sterilization proposal.

Would you pass this along to your fellow council members? I don't have their contact information.

Thank you, Cathy

Cathy Steck (415)435-1927. 300 Golden Gate Avenue

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 9:49 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: FW: Post in Nextdoor

On 7/3/16, 12:38 PM, "Wyman Harris" <boater54@aol.com> wrote:

>Mimi Levinson:

>
>We've had to put up unattractive black plastic netting on our carport
>and other property areas in an effort to keep the deer off our flat
>roof, where they have damaged the tar and gravel surface in addition to
>making quite a bit of noise during the night, right over our bedroom.
>In walking our street (upper Bayview), we have noticed many areas of
>substantial erosion from the deer leaping into the uphill areas. The
>south side of our house has also been markedly eroded by foraging deer.
>I am sure our experience is not unique. (Except for the deer on the
>roof) They may be innocent creatures, adored by many as our local
>Bambis, but there are way too many of them to be supported by Belvedere Island.

>
>
>

RECEIVED

JUL 05 2016

City of Belvedere

Ms. Mary Neilan
Manager, City of Belvedere

RE: Deer Population

Dear Ms. Neilan,

I feel it's extremely important for the City Council to address the growing problems associated with the out of control deer population. Like many of my neighbors, I have tried to implement the previous suggestions of the Council but there is only so much one can do to protect one's self and one's property.

I find it difficult to understand why the council is so reluctant to consider alternative solutions to the problems. Obviously, fences do not counteract the problems of:

1. Lyme Disease
2. Aggressive does/dangerous encounters
3. Property damage
4. General appearance of the island and environment

Surely, as members of our city government you are interested in the health and welfare of it's citizens. Please don't give us another "study" or table the option of sterilization for the "future" as this is already an accepted animal control technique. Please consider the fact that those of us with this problem have just as much right to protection as those who feel it is not an issue.

Please begin the process by inviting White Buffalo, Inc. to assess the problem and make a presentation to the community.

We all deserve a voice and a choice!

Respectfully yours,

Jane Price
222 Golden Gate Ave.
415-435-9846

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 1:15 PM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Deer issues
Attachments: image003.jpg

Begin forwarded message:

From: Betty Hasler <bhasler@haslersearch.com>
Date: July 5, 2016 at 12:51:17 PM PDT
To: "Mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org" <Mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Cc: "Claire McAuliffe (mcauliffe229@gmail.com)" <mcauliffe229@gmail.com>
Subject: Deer issues

Dear Ms. Neilan,

I send this chronicle to you in support of doing something about the deer population in Belvedere. We are about at our wit's end personally chasing the deer off our property. They are becoming increasingly unafraid of us and more difficult to chase away.

We live at 102 Golden Gate. We do not have a deer fence. Our front yard slopes uphill and there is a flat section of land before the hillside slopes upward again to 104 Golden Gate. This flat portion of land is a virtual freeway for deer. We see them traversing this area almost every day. From there they come into our front and back yards and eat everything – even plants that are supposed to be deer-resistant.

On June 10 my husband and I watched a coyote saunter around this flat section of land before jumping onto Golden Gate Avenue and turning onto Belvedere Avenue. This was in broad daylight. While coyote sightings might not be new to Belvedere, it was a first for us. One wonders if the presence of so many small fawns right now is attracting coyotes.

On June 27, having returned from a two week vacation, we found the area around our pool (which is the only part of our property that is completely fenced) had been completely eaten up by deer. I'm talking roses, azaleas, camellias, citrus, Japanese maples – representing a substantial amount of costly landscaping. We were baffled as to how the deer got into the area. The next day I spotted a very large doe in the pool area – yet all gates to the area were closed. As I started chasing her, she jumped over a six-foot fence!!!!!! She was back the next day and jumped over the fence again. It's exasperating to think that the deer are adapting and not even a high fence will keep them out.

And finally, a word about the email you received from Cathy Steck about her encounter with a deer on July 1. My husband heard her shouting "get away" and ran out to help her chase the deer away. Sandy Donnell and her husband happened by in their car and Justin got out to help as well. So there were witnesses to this unpleasant encounter.

Please do not let the small contingent of naysayers win this battle. I hope the Council can stand up to them and say "we heard you, but you are in the minority and we are moving ahead".

Sincerely,
Betty Hasler

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: Mary Neilan - City Manager
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 1:43 PM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Craig Stowers

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: July 5, 2016 at 1:41:21 PM PDT
To: Mary Neilan - City Manager <mneilan@cityofbelvedere.org>
Subject: Fwd: Craig Stowers

Hi Mary,

Would you please forward this email to the City Council.

Thanks,
Wyman
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wyman Harris <wymanharris1@me.com>
Date: May 7, 2016 at 6:28:35 AM PDT
To: Marshall Turner <turnermc@ix.netcom.com>, John Owen <owen_john@mac.com>, Frank Greene <frankg@belcap.com>, George Gnos <ggnos@gnossoffice.com>
Subject: Craig Stowers

I had a great conversation today with Craig Stowers at CA DF&W who was very enthusiastic about supporting our research permit. He said that \$1.7 million in grant money for this fiscal year has already been allocated but he said that he would be very supportive of our request for a research grant for the next cycle that begins in March. He also thought it would be a good idea for us to do a DNA analysis to measure the genetic diversity of our deer. He said that we should work closely with our local fish and wildlife representative Krause.

Craig agreed that our project should be the basis for updating DFW policy to include urban deer management.

Best,
Wyman

Alison Foulis - City Clerk

From: melanie.m.hahn@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2016 12:38 AM
To: Alison Foulis - City Clerk
Subject: The Deer Committee
Attachments: Letter to the OH Deer Committee.pdf

Please find attached my letter in strong opposition to the "Deer Committee" and its intent.

Thank you,
Dr. Melanie Hahn

--

Melanie S. Miran Hahn, Ph.D.

"Movement is what creates life. Stillness is what creates love. To be still and still moving--this is everything."
Do Hyun Choe

Dr. Melanie S. Miran Hahn
428 Golden gate Avenue, Belvedere, CA. 94920 (415) 435-9883 home (415) 215-9722 cell
melanie.m.hahn@gmail.com

한미란

韓蘭麗

July 1, 2016

To the City Council of Belvedere Re: The Deer Committee

I am a long time resident of Belvedere. I grew up with many deer as a child. I heard about the formation of a committee referred to as "The Deer Committee" and so I looked it up on the Belvedere website and much to my dismay, was fed facts about this committee that seeks to give ovariectomies to female deer due to its "growing population." First, I contacted the Humane Society. This notion of a "growing deer population" is untrue. The Humane Society and more specifically a police woman, Officer Cindy, noted that there is no indication of any increase in the number of deer in Belvedere for decades.

As I read through the minutes for the June 13, 2016 agenda, I was struck that everything proposed to rid the island rests upon this one critical and inaccurate bit of information. It may be a perception in the minds of certain people and I too have experienced deer on the island, but I would like to remind all of you that we have had serious drought issues in the past few years and deer are looking for water. If you were in the desert and had no water, I would think you too would do all in your power to find water as it is essential to live. No one can blame the deer for seeking out water in a drought. It is ridiculous position for any human to make such claims so as to buttress the hiring of a company that systematically catches female deer and cuts out their ovaries so they can no longer have babies, especially in light of the fact that there has been no increase in the number of deer on Belvedere Island.

Even more troubling is the way in which members of the Deer Committee are approaching a mis-perceived issue that is not a problem as I see it. As a Ph.D. and having come from a physician's family and one very close to nature, it is unheard of to make decisions to wipe out or even threaten any animal population or species for the sake of a perception that has no empirical basis to speak of. Does this "Oh Deer Committee" have any idea what interrupting the existence of animals that were here before Belvedere became what it is today could possibly be? This is more their home than it is ours. What are the ecological and environmental consequences of ridding a population that has maintained its numbers for decades if not centuries? I think not one of the members of the "Oh Deer Committee" can answer this question.

The minutes read, "for over one year, the Belvedere Deer Committee researched population management methods including depredation, trap and translocation, immune-contraception, and deer deterrents" Do you mean to tell us that a one year study can provide any significant data that justifies a full on attack on natural habitat with no idea what subsequent consequences and implications this may have on the Belvedere animal and human population?

I find your "Oh Deer Committee" quite out of line with what we people are doing in an effort to save our planet. We have global warming, chemical trails and many more serious and clearly documented threats to consider, especially in light of the inaccurate information upon which your "Oh Deer Committee" rests.

I am vehemently opposed to this talk of hiring an external company using my tax dollars to hurt a benign population of animals that may appear to be prevalent, but what would you do if you had no water in years to drink? I am seeking a clear response to my queries and I ask the "Oh Deer Committee" to provide the facts of what could happen to all habitat including people if the deer population that has remained unchanged in decades and

then removed. I think no one has a single idea to offer me. Add to that, I read that the method of doing this so-called containment of increasing deer, singles out females, and does nothing to males when to do such a complex medical procedure as to rip out the baby making parts of an animal that will change their hormonal production and merely sends them on their way. Doctors know as do vets that there is only a small window when a procedure such as ovariectomies can be done safely. What if the females became insane and begin to run at cars in an effort to commit suicide or bite humans and pummel them to death as the deer suffer from a hormonal imbalance? Have any thoughts like these come to mind? Of course not, as the "Oh Deer Committee" exhibits a kind of backward thinking about females to begin with. Why not castrate all the male deer instead? That medical procedure is much easier but as a naturalist, I would never alter nature, as it is begging for trouble down the road.

Imagine yourself as a proud mother of a darling little baby deer. Then one day while grazing for the purposes of getting water, someone appears from nowhere, throws a noose over your head and drags you into the nearest garage, ties you down and cuts your innards out, then opens the door and sends them on their way. Who does that? That kind of behavior may have occurred during the Roman Empire but not in the 21st century.

I am absolutely opposed of such types of behavior and refuse to allow my tax dollars to go to the systematic slaughter of a peaceful community of animals that makes Belvedere so charming. I will do whatever it takes to protect the deer population on our island. In over 50 years, I have never thought once that there was an increasing number of deer. Only in the last five years have they seemed to come for only water. How can that be a crime punishable by some humans with knives, scalpels and a veterinarian degree. Today the vets are like doctors. That are all about the money. Medicine is intended to help sick people get well as should that be for all veterinarians as well. Nowhere in the

Hippocratic oath is money ever mentioned. And clearly the "Oh Deer Committee" is not on the side of the deer who have no voice at all and who are not sick. It is a kind of hegemonic takeover of a population that may irritate others based on inaccurate data if it can be even considered data. I think this entire endeavor should be halted immediately. It serves no purpose and is based on absolutely false claims with zero empirical data.

How about we take the "Oh Deer Committee" members out and castrate all of them except for the one female member as she deserves a hysterectomy. The "Oh Deer Committee" cannot even entertain the notion of doing such damage to the food and animal chain with no knowledge whatsoever of the potential consequences of eliminating a stable population of animals that may be of great help to all of us. The "Oh Deer Committee" has failed to involve ecologists and environmentalists yet act as though they can wipe out what they think is an inconvenient population of innocent animals. I think the people are the problem, not the deer.

Most sincerely,

Dr. Melanie Hahn