

Sun, May 4, 2014 at 11:41 AM

Dear Ann Arbor City Council members and Mr. Powers:

I write to you in my capacities as a citizen of the city of Ann Arbor and as the representative for the 7th District of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. I specifically write to thank you for considering item DC2 (Resolution Directing City Administrator to Evaluate Deer Management Options for Council Consideration) on your May 5th agenda and to offer my support in this effort.

While deer are wonderful creatures, I believe they lack the wisdom to stay out of places they should not be, such as roads and flowerbeds. I know that all of you are familiar with this dynamic and I am sure your constituents have shared similar concerns. My constituents (living in wards 1, 2 and 3) have done so with me. To that end I chaired a BoC Working Session on February 20th (<http://video.ewashtenaw.org/boc/showtime.pl?20140220 WS=video>) focused on available options for deer management. The meeting made clear to me that any efforts to successfully address this issue will need to involve cooperation between various units of local government and the state of Michigan.

Last Friday I had a great (brief, pleasant and effective) meeting with council members Lumm, Briere and Petersen regarding the deer management issue. Council Member Lumm informed me she would be introducing this resolution and council members Briere and Petersen indicated their support. Thank you all for considering this resolution, and thank you to its sponsors and supporters. If it is passed I plan to introduce a companion resolution at an upcoming meeting of the Board of Commissioners. I have copied our Chair, Yousef Rabhi, Administrator Verna McDaniel and Bob Tetens, Director of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Department.

I hope the city of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County can jointly work on this important issue. Hopefully we can find a solution that helps us meet our constituents' needs and humanely and effectively engages and manages the local deer community. Thank you again for your efforts.

Andy LaBarre

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