

Coyotes roaming the urban, suburban, and rural parts of Los Angeles have become commonplace sights for early morning hikers and pedestrians. Continued encroachment on open space formerly inhabited by coyotes has pushed these animals to roam neighborhoods and search trash cans and backyards for food and water. Wildlife experts have long advocated human practices, such as securing trash cans and removing all outdoor food and water sources at night, as the best approach to deter coyotes. Experts have found that forcible removal or destruction of coyotes exacerbates the situation, as new bands of coyotes will often move into the vacated areas.

On May 24, 2016, Motion (Buscaino-Koretz) (CF 16-0585) was introduced, asking staff to explain the City's coyote management plan and urging the need to prioritize residents' safety in those plans. Community response to that Motion has been extensive, with many constituents expressing concerns about their safety or touting the need to coexist with our resident wildlife. In response to the Motion, the Department of Animal Services filed a report detailing the City's coyote management plan, which generally encourages City residents to modify behaviors that often inadvertently invite coyotes into the area. That report also details the protocols Animal Control Officers follow when an aggressive coyote incident is reported.

While the Department of Animal Services efforts are commendable, residents continue to report a high number coyote sightings and incidents involving humans and/or pets. It is clear that the City's public information campaign to change behaviors that attract coyotes must now be supplemented with increased enforcement and prevention efforts, such as enforcing city laws that prohibit feeding of coyotes or implementing technologies that prevent coyotes from reaching food sources. At a minimum, policy makers should consider supplemental measures to improve coyote management and maximize the effectiveness of the Department's public information campaign.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Sanitation, with assistance from the Department of Animal Services, to report on options for Citywide deployment of wildlife-proof trash cans, such as gravity-release containers or units with animal resistant lids, to prevent coyotes from accessing curbside collection receptacles, and include in that report cost estimates for supplying and maintaining these units.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Animal Services report on current enforcement of Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 53.06.5, and related provisions, that prohibit the feeding of coyotes and other non-domesticated mammalian predators. This report should detail the Department's use of the Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) program and other enforcement options, and describe the successes and limitations of current law.

I FURTHER MOVE that Animal Services explore the installation of temporary and permanent wildlife signs throughout the City, and identify options for their highest and best uses.

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ORIGINAL