

MOTION

PERSONNEL & ANIMAL WELFARE

During this past record-breaking summer, we have witnessed an increase in coyote sightings in the City of Los Angeles. Residents have reported coyote sightings in parks, open spaces, and neighborhoods endangering all people especially children. While coyote sightings are nothing new in the City, residents are noticing a distinct change in their behavior. Experts such as Wildlife Specialist Robert Timm for the University of California's Hopland Research and Extension Center explains, "There is an increasing problem with coyotes losing their fear of humans and becoming aggressive." Coyotes are now more brazen and are lingering, defending their turf rather than running away.

Prior to 1994, the Department of Animal Services routinely trapped and euthanized coyotes; however, now the department works with residents to modify human behaviors that often inadvertently encourage coyotes such as providing food, water and cover. Despite these efforts, problems with coyotes persist in our neighborhoods and, based on anecdotal evidence, seem to have gotten worse as coyotes are routinely seen roaming solo or in packs during daylight hours in open spaces and park areas, raising concerns about potential attacks on children and small pets.

The most recent example of a coyote attack occurred on March 14, 2017. A 5-year-old boy was bit in the leg while playing on a soccer field at California State University of Los Angeles. Immediately after attacking the boy, the coyote aggressively approached a woman, who flagged down campus police. Similarly, there have been numerous reports of coyotes attacking pets in the yards of their owner, causing panic amongst these communities.

In addition to their aggressive behavior, coyotes can carry rabies and Tularemia, diseases that can be transmitted to humans and domestic pets. Parasites that are carried by coyotes include mites, ticks, fleas, worms and flukes.

While the Department of Animal Services efforts are commendable, residents continue to report a high number coyote sightings and incidents involving humans and pets. It is clear that the City's public information campaign to change behaviors that attract coyotes is not enough.

In order to protect the safety of our neighborhoods and families, it is time to take a more proactive approach in addressing coyotes. A trap and release coyote management plan is the solution. This is a much more humane approach, as it not only protects families and pets from being attacked, but also protects the coyote by releasing it back into a safe environment.

I THEREFORE direct the Department of Animal Services to report on regulations, current practices, and alternative options for coyote management including a trap and release coyote management plan.

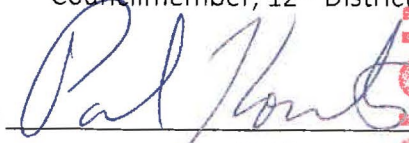
PRESENTED BY



MITCHEL ENGLANDER

Councilmember, 12th District

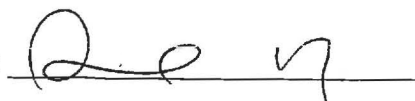
CO-PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



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