

**PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT** relative to the Coyote Management Program.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Buscaino - Koretz):

1. NOTE and FILE the June 24, 2016 and August 2, 2016 Department of Animal Services (DAS) reports relative to the Coyote Management Program.
2. INSTRUCT the DAS to report with a detailed plan on the DAS's Coyote Management Program, resources that are currently deployed to implement that Program, and recommendations for improvements to that Program that will further control the coyote population in the City's residential neighborhoods, including any ordinances or City policies that will support this effort.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The DAS reports that there is no fiscal impact to the DAS. The cost to purchase, distribute and maintain wildlife proof trash cans and do not feed wildlife signage for City will involve City Departments other than the DAS.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

Against:  
Glassell Park Neighborhood Council

Summary:

On June 29, 2016, your Committee considered a June 24, 2016 DAS report in response to Motion (Buscaino - Koretz) relative to the City's Coyote Management Program. According to the DAS, the Wildlife Program currently consists of one Animal Control Officer (ACO). The team operated with two ACOs several years ago and although one officer is assigned to Wildlife, all of our ACOs may be called to assist with any wildlife and they are trained to do so. Over a decade ago, the DAS trapped Coyotes. Trapped Coyotes were then put to death by firearm. Due to a public outcry over the deaths of healthy coyotes, and realizing that lethal methods are not an effective solution, the DAS changed its practice of trapping and killing coyotes and began to offer education to address coyotes concerns.

Coyotes do not want to make contact with or attack humans. Coyotes may be seen in family groups, but often travel alone. Coyotes are known as the "Song Dog" and make 11 distinct vocalizations. So what might sound like eight or more coyotes may only be one or two sending out a greeting or calling to its young. Although people not familiar with coyotes sometimes assume the vocalizations are in celebration of a kill, which is a misnomer. Coyotes could live until 14 years, but in actuality they rarely live to be two or three years old as a result of being hit by cars, killed by large dogs, debilitated by parasites or weather events. Coyotes contribute to a balance in nature by eating small mammals like rodents, squirrels and sometimes even eat rattlesnakes and scorpions. They also help remove deceased animals from our roadways and hillsides. Coyotes and other wildlife even help by distributing seeds of plants, fruits and trees by passing them in their scats. The Saguaro Cactus, which is endangered, is one such plant that coyotes have a paw in helping. So the next time you eat some fruit from a local tree in your yard, it

may be there courtesy of the "Song Dog". Unfortunately we humans have done the coyotes a disservice by making our small pets, garbage cans, outdoor feeders for pets and children's' swimming pools easily accessible for hungry coyotes.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to continue this matter pending a further report-back in regard to the DAS's Coyote Management Program. Subsequently, on August 3, 2016, the Committee reconsidered this matter to include an August 2, 2016 DAS report. Representatives from the DAS provided an overview of the DAS's specific program and answered questions from the Committee members. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to further continue this matter.

On October 19, 2016, the Committee once again considered the various DAS reports and the initial Motion. Representatives from the DAS provided further details about the Coyote Management Program and answered questions from the Committee members. After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to note and file the June 24, 2016 and August 2, 2016 DAS reports and recommended approval of the initial Motion. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
RYU:	ABSENT
HARRIS - DAWSON:	YES

ARL  
10/19/16

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**