



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## Public submission for Council file# 16-0585 (Personnel & Animal Welfare Committee)

1 message

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**Mark R Steinberg** <mark4009@sbcglobal.net>  
Reply-To: Mark R Steinberg <mark4009@sbcglobal.net>  
To: Brenda Barnette <brenda.barnette@lacity.org>  
Cc: Tran Le <tran.le@lacity.org>, Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

Sun, Jun 12, 2016 at 9:29 PM

Dear Brenda:

For your information, I have submitted the narrative comments and associated attachments, below, for inclusion in the public comments concerning Council File #16-0585, "California Department of Fish and Game / Coyote Sightings." I trust you will address these observations and publications in any coyote management plan submitted to, or discussed with the Personnel and Animal Services Committee.

Mark Steinberg

**Item 1: "How to Manage Pests,"** a publication of the University of California's Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program.

The document, authored by several widely recognized experts in the area of coyote management, endorses the importance of public education in moderating the behavior of urbanized coyotes. It also states, however, that *"Once coyotes have lost their fear of humans or have started behaving aggressively, a health and safety hazard exists. Usually, it can be remedied only by removal of one or more of the coyotes...[California Department of Fish & Game] experience has shown that removal of only a few problem coyotes from a population will reestablish fear of humans in the remaining population, often solving coyote problems in that locality for months or even years."* I urge that this official publication, authored by experts in the field of coyote management, be given great weight in framing any coyote management plan for the City of Los Angeles.

**Item 2. Hazing Guidelines, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Area 5**

These guidelines prescribe two levels of hazing, depending upon coyote behavior. The first, "Low Intensity Hazing," can be performed by everyone in the community. It includes, for example, noisemaking throwing objects and spraying water at coyotes. The second level, "High Intensity Hazing," is reserved for situations in which there are "reported human encounters or incidents, where coyotes are approaching residents, where there are routine pet attacks, or based on a totality of circumstances." This level of hazing, which may include the use of bean bag rounds, pepperball guns or similar devices, "should be supported or conducted through local government agencies since it may include techniques prohibited by local laws and ordinances."

As coyote behavior in parts of Los Angeles matches that associated with the use of "High Intensity Hazing" in these Guidelines, I urge that serious consideration be given to incorporating a two-tiered "hazing" regime in framing any coyote management plan for the City of Los Angeles.

**Item 3. Parker, Colorado Coyote Management Plan**

The Parker plan, in addition to prescribing a public education program, adopts a three-tiered hazing approach that parallels the recommendations of the Guidelines, Item 2, above.

Item 4. **"A Review of Successful Urban Coyote Management Programs Implemented to Prevent or Reduce Attacks on Humans and Pets in Southern California,"** authored by Rex O. Baker, Professor Emeritus, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; from the proceedings of the 12th Wildlife Damage Management Conference (2007).

This paper traces responses to coyote threats and attacks in our area from and after the August 1981 fatal coyote attack on a child in Glendale, and includes a description of steps taken to deal with multiple coyote attacks on humans in the Griffith Park area in 1995.

In concluding his review, Dr. Baker affirms his opinion that *"Once coyotes have begun acting boldly or aggressively around humans, it is unlikely that any attempts at hazing can be applied with sufficient consistency or intensity to reverse the coyote habituation. In these circumstances, removal of the offending animals is probably the only effective strategy"* (Timm et al. 2004). *Public education is the key to getting citizens to have a good understanding of the problem and its causes, so that effective urban coyote management programs can be implemented with enough public support to reduce future attacks on humans and pets."*

Given Dr. Baker's experience and expertise, I urge that in framing any coyote management plan for the City of Los Angeles, serious weight be accorded his opinions and recommendations.

Item 5. **"Management of Urban Coyotes Complicated by Unpredictability, Lack of Data and Emotional Politics," Long Beach Business Journal, (12/7/2015)**

The article reports that according to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, there were 14 coyote attacks on humans as of early 2015, a fact of which I believe the public was unaware prior to the date of the publication. To my knowledge, the Department of Animal Services does not formally maintain a record of coyote attacks on humans within its jurisdiction. I urge that in framing any coyote management plan for the City of Los Angeles, the Department be mandated to maintain such a record and to make it publicly available. Should information from the Department of Public Health be required to make the record complete, that information should be limited to the fact, location and date of an attack, as well as the nature of the injury inflicted and shall not include any information personal to the victim(s).

Thank you for your assistance

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**5 attachments**

-  **Coyote Management Guidelines--University of California Integrated Pest Management Program.htm**  
52K
-  **Colorado Coyote Hazing Guidelines.PDF**  
299K
-  **Parker Colorado Coyote Management Plan.pdf**  
77K
-  **Baker 2007.pdf**  
62K
-  **14 coyote attacks in 2015--Long Beach Business Journal.htm**  
220K