



OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER

August 12, 2021

Dear Oakland County Municipal Leaders,

Enclosed you will find a resolution adopted by the Farmington Hills City Council outlining an initiative to establish a county-wide coalition to work with the Department of Natural Resources in the development of a regional urban deer management plan for Oakland County. We ask that you consider the adoption of a similar resolution and join this coalition.

The need for this effort has resulted from the increasing deer populations in our communities and the lack of viable solutions under the existing Michigan Deer Management Plan for the State of Michigan. The current Michigan Deer Management Plan is a one-size-fits-all approach that doesn't meet the needs of suburban communities experiencing excessive deer populations. As you may know, Oakland County leads the state in the number of car/deer crashes annually.

We ask that you join us in working with Oakland County and the state in identifying viable solutions and available funding to address the health and safety of our citizens, their property and the deer herd in Oakland County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Mekjian".

Gary Mekjian
City Manager

Enclosure

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

**RESOLUTION SEEKING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL URBAN DEER
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR OAKLAND COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. R-150-21

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, held in the Farmington Hills City Hall on the 9th day of August, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., with those present and absent being,

PRESENT: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN
ABSENT: BRIDGES

the following preamble and resolution were offered by Councilmember Boleware and supported by Councilmember Knol.

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills is located in Oakland County, Michigan and encompasses 34 square miles of hills, waterways and natural corridors that support diverse wildlife, and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Commission is responsible for Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) policy which influences department priorities, methods of operation, and the manner in which programs relate to the citizens of the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the MDNR has indicated a healthy deer population is characterized by 20 deer or less per square mile, and

WHEREAS, based on aerial counts conducted by the City, it is believed that the City of Farmington Hills has concentrated deer populations of up to 80 deer per square mile, and

WHEREAS, communities with an overpopulated urban deer population can have negative effects including excessive deer/vehicle crashes, property destruction, and personal and pet health and safety related concerns, and

WHEREAS, according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, Oakland County has consistently led the State of Michigan in the number of car/deer crashes totaling roughly 2,000 per year, and

WHEREAS, considering the fact that urban deer constantly traverse jurisdictional boundaries between communities throughout Oakland County, urban deer populations are an ongoing regional issue in Oakland County rather than a local one, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Deer Management Plan stipulates operational details will be specified at regional levels within an adaptive-management framework in which specific management methods are routinely adjusted and updated as local conditions, technology, regulations and other aspects of management change, and

WHEREAS, a true solution to a regional problem requires a regional approach, and

WHEREAS, a regional solution to addressing the excessive urban deer population in Oakland County can most effectively be achieved through a collaborative plan with neighboring communities, the County, and the MDNR.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLVED, that the City of Farmington Hills supports a collaborative regional solution for the health and safety of its citizens, their property and the deer herd in Oakland County, and further

RESOLVED, that the Farmington Hills City Council directs its Administration to work with its County Commissioners, State Senator, State Representative, the Natural Resources Commission, Oakland County, the MDNR, and Oakland County communities to develop a regional urban deer management plan for Oakland County, as well as to identify funding sources to implement such a plan, and

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission, the Director of MDNR, our State Representative, State Senator, Oakland County Executive, County Commissioners, and the communities in Oakland County.

AYES: BARNETT, BOLEWARE, KNOL, MASSEY, NEWLIN AND STRICKFADEN

NAYS: NONE

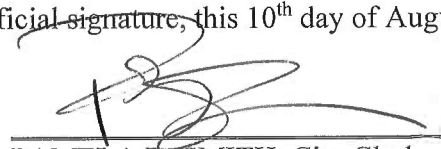
ABSENT: BRIDGES

ABSTENTIONS: NONE

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Farmington Hills, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills at a regular meeting held on August 9, 2021, the original of which resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 10th day of August, 2021.



PAMELA B. SMITH, City Clerk
City of Farmington Hills