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## Sec. 9.90. Deer feeding—Prohibited.

- (1) *Purpose and findings.* The purpose of this section's feeding ban is to eliminate deer attractions which, when combined with other management strategies, should reduce, over time, the depredation impacts on residents, as well as assure the safety of the traveling public on city streets.

*Findings:*

- (a) Recreational feeding of deer often causes deer concentrations which develop into depredation and other public safety problems;
  - (b) Depredation of garden crops and landscaping plants is increasing as deer habitat decreases and deer populations increase within particular areas and neighborhoods in the city;
  - (c) High deer populations can result in increased car/deer crashes within the community, causing public safety concerns.
- (2) *Acts prohibited.* No person may place or permit to be placed on the ground, or less than five (5) feet above the ground surface any grain, fodder, salt licks, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay or other edible materials which may reasonably be expected to result in deer feeding, unless such items are screened or protected in a manner that prevents deer from feeding on them. Living fruit trees and other live vegetation shall not be considered as deer feeding.
- (3) *Exceptions.* This prohibition shall not apply to:
- (a) Veterinarians, city/county animal control officers, parks maintenance staff, or county, state or federal game officials who are in the course of their duties, have deer in custody or under their management.
  - (b) Persons feeding domestic animals or wild birds using feeding devices or containers. Such persons shall take all reasonable steps necessary to ensure that such devices and containers are maintained in proper working condition and that only the intended animals are able to access these feeding devices and containers.
  - (c) The use of straw, hay or straw-related materials for erosion control, mulching, gardening or other landscape purposes.
  - (d) The use of pumpkins, gourds, corn stalks, wreaths, garland or other plant material for decorative seasonal or holiday purposes between September 1 and December 31 of the calendar year.
- (4) *Enforcement.*
- (a) *Warning.* Prior to the issuance of a complaint or citation for violation of this section, the city shall issue a written warning giving notice of the penalties as stated in section 9.88 that could be imposed if the violator fails to cease and desist from violating this section.

(Ord. No. 1748, § 1, 3-24-22)