



---

TO: Southfield City Council and Council President Micheal “Ari” Mandelbaum

FROM: Southfield Wildlife Advisory Commission

CC: Mayor Kenson Siver; City Administrator Fred Zorn, Deputy City Administrator John Michrina; and City Attorney Dawn King

DATE: August 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Reassessment of Deer Management Options – Proposed Cull

---

Members of the City Council,

In 2023 the Southfield Wildlife Advisory Commission presented to Council a report concerning the Commission’s work since 2021, data concerning deer and deer-related conflicts in the City, and various options for deer management within the City. In that report, the Commission did not make a recommendation for or against implementing any particular deer management options, but the report noted that a cull using professional sharpshooters was likely to be the safest, most cost efficient, and most effective management option available. The report can be accessed at on the City’s website using the following link: <https://www.cityofsouthfield.com/residents/wildlife-advisory-commission>.

Since that time, the Commission has reviewed its previous report and the data discussed within it, reviewed updated data and resident concerns for the year 2023, and reconsidered whether to take a position on whether the City of Southfield should implement a particular deer management option. At the July 16, 2024, meeting of the Commission, a majority of the Commission voted in favor of recommending that the City of Southfield implement a deer cull program with the following conditions and recommendations:

- Conditions: (1) any cull must be conducted by professional sharpshooters, (2) any cull must include partnering with an organization such as Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger to facilitate the processing and donation of

harvested venison to those in need, and (3) any resolution for or contract regarding a deer cull must commit to a 3 to 5 year program to promote effectiveness and allow for evaluation of the program prior to continuation.

- Recommendations: (1) the city should encourage neighboring communities to partner with Southfield to increase effectiveness of a cull, (2) the City should continue to pursue the creation of public education and self-help materials, and (3) the City should implement habitat restoration efforts in conjunction with a cull to promote the restoration of native Michigan plant life within Southfield's green spaces.

Attached for the Council's consideration is a proposed resolution that would authorize the City Administration to implement this proposal. Please note that in addition to the items listed in the bullet points above, the attached proposed resolution would also authorize a final aerial survey for winter 2025 that will be useful in selecting target areas for any cull, would authorize setting a target of removing approximately 100 deer during the first year of the cull, and would authorize to authorize and implement a temporary moratorium of City ordinances and regulations concerning the discharge of firearms within the City to the extent necessary to implement a cull using professional sharpshooters.

Commission Chairperson Jennifer Ormond and Commission Secretary David Sheaffer are happy to make themselves available to discuss the proposal with Council as needed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chairperson Jennifer Ormond  
Secretary David Sheaffer