



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator

DATE: January 12, 2018

SUBJECT: **Deer Sterilization Legislation**

REFERENCES: House Bill No. 5321

PURPOSE: This memorandum provides an update on State legislation (House Bill No. 5321) which is being introduced by Representatives Cole and Lucido. City staff is planning to attend the meeting and if appropriate share the City of Ann Arbor's experience.

BACKGROUND: FY2018 is the second year of the City's Deer Management plan which incorporated a sterilization component under a research permit issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). In FY2017, 54 deer were sterilized within two identified zones in the city. In January 2018, 19 deer were sterilized across the two original zones plus a new third zone. In December 2017, a State Representative drafted a legislative change that would prevent the MDNR from issuing any future sterilization permits. The legislation was referred to the State's Natural Resources Commission and the City has been made aware that the commission will consider the bill on Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

City Council's FY2018 legislative policy agenda included the value to *preserve a healthy and sustainable environment*. Staff believes at this time that retaining the option to utilize sterilization as part of the deer management program is consistent with this value.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Program Goals: The usefulness of the sterilization (via ovariectomy) method to manage the deer population is useful in part if 98%+ of an areas female deer (does) are sterilized. The results of this year's sterilization effort is not yet known since cameras are presently deployed to help determine the percent achieved.

Policy Advocacy: In a city like Ann Arbor where there are areas of dense urban residential homes as well as K-12 public schools located within the neighborhoods, utilizing the MDNR's standard preferred method of culling is not practical. In addition, the City's interpretation of the federal law banning the use of firearms within 1,000 feet of a public schools creates zones large enough for deer to inhabit and not be manageable by traditional methods. For these reasons staff believes MDNR permits for sterilization are a critical option to have in addition to the traditional methods to manage the deer population.

NEXT STEPS: City staff plans to attend the legislative meeting and possibly share the city's experience with sterilization.

1 Attachment

1 – House Bill No. 5321

cc: T Crawford
D Delacourt
D Forsyth
L Wondrash