

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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**Comments:**

Dear Commissioners Bruch, Heil, Meek, Block & Jones:

As a District 1 resident of Placitas, I am writing in strong opposition to the current draft of an "Ordinance to Ban Feeding of Certain Wildlife". I do not agree with government big or small dictating what we can and cannot do on our private property. However, I do agree that steps can be made to ensure public safety as well as the safety of our local wildlife. These steps start with more aggressive & effective enforcement of speed & reckless driving on HWY 165.

I would appreciate answers to the following questions:

- Has the county reviewed all horse, deer or bear (or any other animal) related collisions in Placitas within the past few years to determine cause of impact?
- What are the historical statistics in Placitas when it comes to number of animal related collisions vs. number of collisions not involving animals?
- How many of the above mentioned collisions (including non-animal related & animal related) involved speed?
- How many of the above mentioned collisions (including non-animal related and animal related) took place during daylight hours? How many at night when visibility was a factor?
- How many of the above mentioned collisions (including non-animal related & animal related) involved driving under the influence?
- How many of the drivers involved in the above mentioned collisions (including non-animal related & animal related) were fined, ticketed, penalized?
- What measures have been taken to further enforce speed & reckless aside from the occasional unmanned radar speed signs randomly placed AFTER incidents occur? Do those signs have cameras that capture speeders on video?
- How many days per wk. are allocated to police presence in particular to speed enforcement in Placitas?
- How often is HWY 165 required to be graded & maintained by the county, and by how many feet to help prevent overgrowth of vegetation that is attractive to wildlife AND also a fire hazard. Horses will not linger in areas where there is no vegetation to graze.
- How often are our additional "county roadways" (specifically in Placitas) required to be maintained & by how many feet? Is it 500 feet as expected of homeowners when it comes to providing sustenance to wildlife in this draft of the ordinance?
- In regard to the permits mentioned in the ordinance, where do those fees go? Do they go into a fund that is focused on the protection of wildlife, sanctuaries, on-call veterinarians, animal control? How will P&Z determine who & why one is deserving of said permit?

Answers to these questions would help citizens of Placitas weigh in & remain proactive when the county proposes change. Is it fair, humane or appropriate to simply suggest that due to our local wildlife population, our public safety is at risk before FIRST addressing the cause and circumstances around traffic accidents & continued issue with speedy drivers in our community? Arguments as to whether or not speeders are local, tourists or vendors is ludicrous. Speed & reckless driving needs to be monitored, addressed & applied to all, especially locals.