

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

Name

Cheryl Betterly

Address

11 Sinagua Rd
Placitas, New Mexico 87043
United States
[Map It](#)

Email

cheryl.mnich@gmail.com

Comments:

RE: Ordinance to Ban Feeding of Certain Wildlife

As residents of Placitas, we feel it is important to make our opinion heard regarding the ordinance to ban feeding of certain wildlife. We are supportive of the idea of the ordinance, but see room for improvement to make it less vague (suggestions follow), as other public comments have also mentioned.

- (1) Ordinance needs to state what the basis is for approving/denying an application or renewal of a permit.
- (2) Water needs to be included explicitly as a nutrient
- (3) There needs to be a public notice period for any application submitted that also allows others the opportunity to protest/object to the permit
- (4) If the idea is that some nourishment can/should be provided during particularly volatile times of the year, then there should be a limit to the number of permits per year, per applicant (i.e. not to exceed some # of months or some consecutive # of months in a calendar year). If someone is feeding them the entire year then they have become their pets.
- (5) It should be added that those who are in violation of this ordinance lose their ability to obtain a permit for a certain amount of time (1-3 years?).
- (6) It should be stated that the permit must be posted in plain view at any feeding/watering station
- (7) Bears are included, other common members of our local wildlife should also be included: bobcats, mountain lion, and coyotes.
- (8) Ordinance should also stipulate that anyone whose permit is approved is also required to clean-up the manure in the immediate area (within 500 ft?) of the feeding location and that the permit will be revoked if this is violated.

In addition to these suggestions, we also have a number of questions about the feasibility and implications of the ordinance.

- (1) Is it realistic that this ordinance can actually be enforced? As others have pointed out, there really is a problem with reckless driving in the community and it seems to be too difficult to even enforce that, even though I would think it is significantly more straight-forward than this ordinance will be.
- (2) Does the county really have the resources to deal with the additional paperwork etc that this ordinance would seemingly create?
- (3) Would having this ordinance place liability on the permit holder if an incident occurred proximal to their permitted feeding location?
- (4) What would the county do with \$10 fees?

If one wants to consider these horses wild, then they must be able to survive on what is naturally available, like all other wild animals. If one wants to feed these horses on an ongoing basis, then they are no longer wild and should be taken in as one's own domestic pet/livestock.

Commenters saying this isn't humane...what about all the other animals that die in the wild every day? Should we be interfering and trying to prevent that as well? Do you stop for every single ant in the road to make sure they don't get run over? Unfortunately, life is a cycle and especially in the wild, life can be tough.

Again, we overall support the idea behind the ordinance, but believe it needs some modifications first and would like some reassurance that it is truly feasible.