

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Whose hooves?

Please do not vote yes for this ordinance. You are throwing away the very thing that makes Placitas so special. Stop thinking of the American Wild Mustang Horse and other wildlife as a nuisance, and instead start thinking of these beautiful creatures as gifts from this very special land where we live. You saw the horse droppings when you purchased your house. You more than likely saw the wild horses roaming the lands before you moved in. Assuredly your real estate agent alerted you to the fact. So you knew what you were getting into when you made your purchase. And you moved to Placitas anyway. And now, like all of the HOAs taking over this wild land, you are trying to impose your likes and preferences on all your neighbors around you.

This "Ordinance" sounds more like an HOA issue. Perhaps, if your individual HOAs vote to implement this ban on feeding wild life within your community, then all of the non-wildlife lovers can huddle together in your HOA communities and use your monies to build a perimeter fence so no wild life can infiltrate your interloper denizens and disturb your beautiful green lawns, manicured rocks, and Hollywood-style swimming pools. As far as wild life on the roads, the NM165 is a "Mountainous Unimproved Road", after mile marker 6, it meanders through a difficult pass through the northwestern slopes of the Sandia Mountains. If you cannot handle living in this wild country, then perhaps consider moving to Rio Rancho instead.

Wild life facts:

1. Almost all animals can smell food for up to 1 mile away on a regular day, even further on very windy days.
2. Almost all animals can hear other animals feeding up to 1 mile away.
3. The ban on feeding wild life will not stop wild life from crossing NM165 or any other road, as wild life is instinctively nomadic and will wander to anywhere food is smelled or feeding is otherwise observed.
4. If you stop feeding the American Wild Mustang Horses, they will wander even more because they will be searching even more vigorously for food.
5. As long as there are privately owned horse stables in the area, the American Wild Mustang Horse and other wildlife will be attracted to these stables where food is stored.
6. The American Wild Horses keep dangerous wildlife away from Placitas and act as a natural defender of the territory. If you get rid of the American Wild Mustang Horse, other wild life will dominate the landscape.
7. If you are sincere in your wild life feeding ban in order to stop the instinctual nomadic feeding lifestyles of our wild inhabitants, then you need to ban all outdoor barbecues, outdoor venting of interior cooking, as well as ban all disposing of foods into trash bins leaving this fodder out on the curb for wild life to smell from miles and miles around.
8. Contrary to popular belief, wild horses and other wild life do not cause undue erosion, and these creatures are far from the eco-terrorists many have falsely portrayed. In actuality, wild horses and other wild life keep the landscape in check and balance. The fertile manure of wild animals acts a natural soil conditioner and helps spread natural seeds around the wild landscape.
9. In actuality, it is humans that are to blame for all the undue erosion and ecoterrorism, not only in our small community of Placitas, also all around the world. Interesting how these wild horse dislikers are usually the ones driving around in 10 cylinder 3/4 ton trucks, not only destroying the environment, doing so by 300+ horse power vehicles. That's right, horse power. Grim irony, no?

For the Proponents in favor of this ordinance:

- 1) Why did you move to a wildlife area if you cannot handle being in wildlife.
- 2) If you get rid of the American Wild Mustang Horses, Placitas and the entire Wild Mustang Mesa will lose its identity. It will become another Rio Rancho.
- 3) If you are concerned about personal injury due to the wild life around you, perhaps instead of living out in nature, you should move closer to the city, in Rio Rancho where there is no wild life.

- 4) Where is the proof or any scientific valid report stating to the fact this ban on feeding certain wildlife will stop the wild horses from living in this nature preserve, or stop the wild horses from wandering and crossing roads.
- 5) If all communities in Placitas were to stop feeding the American Wild Mustang Horses, the wild mustang horses will wander even more frantically and more often. This ban will cause horses to cross big public roads like NM165 more often in search of sustenance.
- 6) Instead of incarcerating innocent, patriotic good American people with a human heart wanting to help the American Wild Mustang Horses and its current predicaments to stay nourished and in good health in an over-human populated land, instead of putting these good people in prison why not offer monetary assistance to help feed and take care of our wild life inhabitants?
- 7) There is plenty of land available north of Placitas, including the Placitas Open Space that can be used as an American Wild Horse preserve where feeding and watering stations can be made available to the horses thereby keeping their presence away from the main roads.
- 8) Instead of trying to get rid of the American Wild Mustang Horses, how about slow down and be more awake when driving to and from your home.

Why do we need a ban for feeding certain wildlife? Is this because of the increase in vehicular accidents involving wild horses on the road, particularly NM165? If so, where is the proof that such a ban as proposed here will eliminate all wild horses and certain wildlife from trespassing private property and public roadways including the NM165? Sandoval County records show on average only 3 vehicular accidents involving wild horses per year. That's for the entire county. On the other hand, there are over 20 vehicular accidents involving FedEx drivers per year. Does this mean we need to impose a ban on FedEx drivers also? Records also show over 75% of these accidents are involved with elderly drivers. Maybe we should ban elderly drivers also?

Please provide proof to the fact banning wild horse feeding will stop wild life from crossing the roads. The fact is by implementing this ordinance ban on not feeding the wild horses will only cause the wild horses to wander even more in search of food. If you vote this ordinance into effect, you will only be making the situation worse. This ordinance is half-witted attempt to "fix" an issue concerning all Sandoval County residents, not only for those who feel animosity at certain wild life in our great county of New Mexico.

If those proposing the ban are in favor of the ban because of the belief the American Wild Mustang Horses are a nuisance, what will this ban accomplish in the near future? In the distant future? On what scientific grounds is this proposal founded? Where is the scientific proof banning the feeding of wild horses and other wild life will accomplish what desired effect? Can the proponents of this ordinance guarantee this ban will stop certain wild life from inhabiting the Mesas of Sandoval County? How much will this cost tax payers? Can this money be better used to implement better signage, and horse guard-crossing rails along the NM 165? Better highway lighting along NM165? What about "No Wild Life Feeding" zones along NM165 and other dangerous areas?

I personally enjoy feeding the wild horses. They bring me much joy, peace, and calmness in an otherwise human utilitarian world. By imposing such a ban on me violates my constitutional rights. Not only as a free citizen where I am not causing any harm to anyone by feeding wild horses, also as a land owner, where now my neighbors are dictating what I can and can't do on my private property. New Mexico law allows for me to feed wild life on my property. Now you are taking my rights away?

This ban paints those that love the American Wild Mustang Horses as criminals in need of imprisonment. There is nothing illegal by helping take care of mother nature. Those willing to take responsibility on this planet Earth by providing assistance to mother nature when needed are not criminals, especially when such help is needed when directly due to displacement of wild life caused by human housing developments. Specifically in this case by private land owners feeding wild horses on personal private property, and these individuals helping the wild life are not criminals. Many are helping keep the wild horses off of the roads by sharing private property with these original indigenous dwellers thereby keeping the horses happy and off the roads.

Keep Placitas Rural