

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

Name

Christine Huber

Address

8 Camino del Rincon Colorado
Placitas, New Mexico 87043
United States
[Map It](#)

Email

cahuber62@gmail.com

Comments:

Regarding Placitas Population Public Safety and Free Roaming Horses

Fact: Most of Placitas does not have free-roaming wild horses - just those of us living at the east end of 165 which really represents a very small percentage of the "Placitas population growth", a term that is misleading because the majority of homes are west of mile marker 4 where horses don't go.

Rather, from mile marker 4 east is where an estimated number of 150 horses spread out over this vast area of _____ square miles which gives a ratio percentage of _____ - _____ per horse.

As we know, horses are prey animals so they generally stay in small groups of _____. Those small clusters do not cross or walk along Hwy 165 very often that I've personally observed over several years, and I'd like to see some simple County quantifiable statistics showing just what ongoing "roadway safety hazards" they truly present - a study showing how often the horses really do walk alongside or cross 165. Data - facts - not exaggerations.

I also believe that a handful of very good families who feed the horses when natural forage is unavailable have been unfortunately targeted by the Sheriffs Office unfairly as stated on the most recent Sheriff Facebook page. We respect all law enforcement but believe there are more serious problems out there more worthy of their attention.

Given that 2 to 3 horses out of 150 total horse population have been accidentally struck at night by careless drivers does not really present a safety hazard to all of 5,107 Placitas residents and others. There has been an exaggeration of the facts cited by the Sheriff's Office under the guise of "danger to public welfare" which is bewildering to those of us living at this end of 165

Sadly, there's been little attempt by Sandoval County or the DOT State Highway Department to make a serious effort to get our local community citizens comments, so tonight we ask for such a meeting before any ordinance is passed affecting the horses and, in turn, our quality of life.

I speak for a large community who want the Commission, the Advisory Council and the Sheriff's Office to exert influence to get the DOT to put up at least 10 reflective highway signs from mile marker 4 East through the Village of Placitas. These signs will alert traffic that horses may be in the area and to watch out for them. The cost of this certainly couldn't exceed \$10,000 including manpower. I would also like to propose an ordinance added to that signage which reads there will be a \$1000 fine for any horse injury resulting in death.

Thank you for your consideration.