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**Date:** March 8, 2023 at 12:06:01 PM CST

**Subject: SOLUTIONS and IDEAS | Please Oppose ORDINANCE TO BAN FEEDING OF WILD HORSES**

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Dear County Commissioners,

I humbly ask that you withdraw the ORDINANCE TO BAN FEEDING OF WILD HORSES on public property.

Whether you know it or not, you have the power to rip the community of Placitas to shreds. As you can see from the intensity of the public comments this is a polarizing issue.

The ordinance as it exists today will literally tear this community apart by pitting neighbors against each other and creating an atmosphere of snitching and distrust. Please, I beg of you, have a heart. If not for the innocent horses who will surely starve, but for our fragile community.

Regarding NMSA § 4-37-1 (1975), we thank you for invoking the power to provide for our safety; however, we believe that starving horses and incarcerating property owners will not secure our safety. The real threat to our safety is speeding and distracted/reckless driving as evidenced in the police reports from collisions along highway 165.

We propose small steps. If the real issue here is to minimize collisions along highway 165, we have the following suggestions that are more cost effective solutions for the government. It is a win win situation. We believe that your constituents will support the following solutions regardless of their opinion on the American Wild Mustangs (a national symbol of freedom and hope).

#### **IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS:**

- **Enforcement of the speed limit.** (Placitas should have the same reputation that Corrales has when it comes to speeding, i.e. exceed the speed limit by even ONE mph and you will be ticketed).
- **Better signage especially along the wildlife corridor.** Reflective and solar powered warning lights (that are not polluting). This is common practice on roads across the country.
- **Ban feeding of horses from vehicles,** no dumping food nor feeding any animal (domestic or wild) along highway 165.

#### **FUTURE SOLUTIONS:**

- **Restore fencing along highway 165.** Horses conserve energy, they sleep most of the day. They will not expend unnecessary energy to jump a fence. Added bonus: no tumbleweeds flying across the road and causing dangerous and erratic driving.

- **Add cattle guards along highway 165.** This will keep all of us safe against all manner of wildlife crossing.

Please consider our suggestion to start small. Make small deliberate steps, explore, analyze, document, and evaluate after some time. This will ensure success.

We have a longer email that presents counter points to the statements in the ordinance, but we will save that for our public comments. This email simply serves as a direct plea to all of you and your humanity. There is a better way! We are not complaining, we are offering solutions. Please work with us, not against us.

Thank you,  
Christine