

Public Comment for Upcoming Commission Meeting

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**Comments:**

Hello. first, thank you to the commissioners, the sheriff and all other county officials, and community volunteers who are, and have been, involved in the issues surrounding feral horses in Placitas over a period of many years. I believe most people want what is best for the horses and want to protect their considerable investments in their properties in Placitas. I am sorry that this ordinance is at hand because I see it as a punitive measure but I understand why it has been proposed and is perhaps needed. It might deter some people from continuing to randomly feed horses but I have a concern over additional community strife if people begin to report neighbors. I do not clearly understand the thinking behind the possibility of granting feeding permits, if they could be purchased by people currently feeding horses in areas that bring horses closer to busier roads. If there are people in Placitas who have large parcels of land not too close to the busier roads, perhaps they would be the ones issued permits? I also would like to offer a few ideas. 1) Develop a single page handout with 'Best Practices to Live with Feral Horses' that could be given by realtors to every person who purchases land or a home in Placitas. The best practices should be written by professionals who have true knowledge in this regard. I would volunteer to take such a flyer to the realtors and realtors could do more than just promote the beauty and uniqueness of living with horses in Placitas. I think education is useful and it is unrealistic to expect people moving into Placitas from all over the country to have an understanding beyond 'Oh, I can live with wild horses in Placitas. How wonderful!', much less expect them to be familiar with the complex issues and history. 2) On two of the existing horse signs on 165, at the base of the s curves and just before the village, put lights around the edge of the signs, as is being on stop signs in Bernalillo and elsewhere. I realize and value that Placitas is a dark sky community so I would hope there is a way to work with this. It would provide an additional 'heads up' to drivers on a curvy, dark part of 165. 3) If there are additional areas in Placitas where feeding of horses can be done safely, establish an organized way for Placitas residents to contribute to the costs, as in an 'adopt a horse' program where financial contributions can be given to cover costs for particular horses. Perhaps this could be an add-on to programs that already exist to help the horses in Placitas. Thank you.