



White-Tailed Deer Management Plan Public Comments 2011

Key to Source Column

AC - On-line Petition (Animal Connection)

CSR - City of Rockville's Citizen Service Request

WTDTF White-Tailed Deer Task Force E-mail Link

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	<p>The recent article about the City's White Tail Deer Task Force published in the "Gazette" caused me to check the City's site about that topic. The material published by the City didn't contain an email address or link to a city department for me to comment on my concern with deer overpopulation. This is a deficiency. I am in the process of tracking down a city rep; this wastes time and probably turns people off from sharing their experiences. Contrary to the published statement, I see the deer problem, not as an over burden but as overpopulation. My shrubbery and that of my neighbors is constantly eaten despite our efforts to deter deer. I am losing interest in maintaining my property. Discussion of regulating deer on private property, like Lakewood Country Club's many acres needs to be discussed in your committee. I support aerial survey to count and pinpoint the deer population and elimination of a large percentage of deer.</p>	Rockville, MD
CSR	<p>Dear Mayor of Rockville - I have been a resident of Montgomery County MD most of my life and most recently lived in Rockville for several years. My professional background is in animal protection issues and I write about animals and nature.</p> <p>I urge the City of Rockville to set a humane standard and choose humane ways of dealing with the deer populations. It is tragic that government agencies in this country and abroad constantly turn to violence when addressing wildlife issues.</p> <p>It has become popular to hate deer and form both ignorant and fear based ideas. First of all deer do not transmit Lyme disease. The virus that causes Lyme disease is found in rodents. Deer are only one of many species of wildlife - including many species of North American Song Birds that carry deer ticks. So the ticks are on many species of mammals and birds. But the actual carrier of the virus is rodents.</p> <p>Deer are ignorantly over blamed for the spread of Lyme disease because the name of the tick creates a jump to conclusions.</p> <p>I have read scientific studies in which researchers actually found that deer reduction was correlated with an increase in Lyme disease. I will be glad to provide you or your staff with research articles (not mine) that I have compiled. Where you fragment habitat- you create a loss of the predators of animals that eat the Lyme carrying rodents. So in places like our suburbs, we have severely interfered with wildlife habitat and natural predation, causing imbalances. But no one wants to look at these deeper, wise issues.</p> <p>The worst way localities are dealing with deer, including areas of non - incorporated Rockville - is through the barbaric use of bow hunters. Even when supposed "professionals" are hired for these so called "managed bow hunts" - deer die a slow, horrific death. Death by impalement with arrows is slower than death caused by a bullet. Not that I am encouraging any violence, but I have documented first-hand the horrors of bow hunting. As a matter of fact, in the meadow where I used to live in North Glen Hills Rockville, a local HOA hired bow hunters and they left several injured deer that wandered into the yard. And according to the woman who owned the house where I lived, the deer died a slow death in her meadow. And yes, this was all part of a govt.</p>	Rockville, MD

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	<p>plan to reduce deer populations.</p> <p>Please encourage citizens to learn the facts and not just rush to kill deer. I also encourage you to contact The Humane Society of The United States and work with their staff to come up with a plan. I do not work for HSUS. But I am convinced we need to find more humane standards for our conduct towards wildlife.</p> <hr/> <p>This is very informative and I will pass it along to the City's Superintendent of Parks, Steve Mader. Mr. Mader is part of the White-Tailed Deer Task Force.</p> <p>Thank you again for your input on this important issue.</p> <p>Innovative Humane Deer Management Program Tested in Maryland Suburbs WASHINGTON — The Humane Society of the United States, the nation’s largest animal protection organization, applauds an innovative program in the Baltimore suburbs to control the white-tailed deer population through sterilization. This first of its kind program in the state is a cooperative effort of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, private deer management company White Buffalo, and Wildlife Rescue, Inc., a non-profit Monkton wildlife rehabilitation organization. The first test of the program, in which wildlife veterinarian Steve Timm, DVM, performed surgery on deer anesthetized in the field, was conducted earlier in February over a period of seven days, and was recently highlighted in the Baltimore Sun.</p> <p>“This is a ground-breaking effort to test an alternative strategy to deal with conflicts between people and deer in Maryland’s suburbs,” said John Hadidian, Ph.D, director of The HSUS’ urban wildlife program. The project was financed by Wildlife Rescue, Inc. Gerda Deterer, the founder of Wildlife Rescue, approved the project before she passed away in 2009. Added Hadidian, “Nothing could be more appropriate to commemorate Gerda’s selfless and tireless dedication to helping wildlife.”</p> <p>“We hope this is just the beginning of a new partnership with the Maryland DNR on innovative strategies to manage the state’s deer populations—and other wildlife—humanely,” said Enid Feinberg, a Wildlife Rescue board member, who was instrumental in working with the state and White Buffalo in putting the project together. “We were thrilled with the success of this project and look forward to other similar successes in the future.”</p> <p>A total of 32 female deer were treated successfully, with surgeries ensuring that the hundreds of fawns they might have given birth to over their lifetimes will not add to the growing deer population and human-deer conflicts on private property in a residential neighborhood near Loch Raven Reservoir in Baltimore County, north of the city. For more information about the program, please visit wildliferescueinc.org</p> <p>The HSUS is a leader in the development of contraception agents and procedures that offer humane means of controlling animal populations and has several active deer immunocontraception study sites in Maryland, New York and South Carolina, including an ongoing study at the National Institutes of Standards and Technology campus near The HSUS’ Gaithersburg office. To learn more about PZP, please visit The HSUS website.</p>	

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	<p>Dear Mayor: Thank you for at least listening to my email. Many political leaders just shut out people with my opinion.</p> <p>I know that a birth control was just approved for use in deer. I am sure HSUS knows all about it. But I also know that getting the money and the approval for birth control is a big bureaucratic tic issue. I personally view the deer as being way over blamed for car accidents, for us as humans have done relatively little to include deer and other wildlife in our urban landscape. I am 52 years old and have never hit a deer, and I lived in Darnestown, near Potomac and in Rockville. I drive slow and find it enables me to stop even when deer have jumped in front of my car.</p> <p>I believe most of these accidents with deer are from driver's being in a constant rush and viewing deer as a nuisance. Really deer are pedestrians in their own right, and we do nothing to honor their path. This is what I am starting to teach in my classes. I have attached a fact sheet that I wrote up to help people and wildlife traverses the roads safely. Believe me, if I did not drive in accordance with what I wrote up on this fact sheet, I am sure I would have hit many animals and not just deer.</p> <p>Good luck with finding a hopefully humane solution to dealing with deer.</p>	
CSR	<p>Dear Mayor and Council:</p> <p>I viewed with interest the broadcast of the hearing earlier this week at which the Whitetail Deer Task Force presented its recommendations to the Mayor and Council. The Task Force is to be commended for the work that it has put into this project and the balanced nature of its recommendations. I hope that you can support them, both by enacting the recommended legislation and by providing the necessary resources to City staff.</p> <p>There are two additional recommendations that I would like to make on this issue. First, a copy of the Task Force's recommendations should be placed on the City's website. Although the site currently has some general information about the Task Force, it is important that its recommendations be widely shared with Rockville residents. And second, I request that the Mayor and Council, if in agreement with the recommendations, implement them in a timely manner. It has taken almost two years for the Task Force to reach the point of making recommendations, a period during which the deer problem in our neighborhoods has only worsened. It would be unfortunate if there were any further delay.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>There are several other alternatives besides lethal control of the deer in our city. I hope that city will find a non-lethal way to deal with the deer.</p>	Rockville, MD
CSR	<p>Oh no! Please don't kill the deer- they mean no harm, they don't kill people, and they are defenseless. We have no right to kill creatures that do not harm us just because we want to. They overpopulated? That will be controlled as their food supply diminishes. It has been proven that food determines population sizes in ALL species. They "destroy" gardens? Not good, but worth the death penalty? Shouldn't we try to live with nature and not control it?</p> <p>Please- don't resort to violence.</p> <p>PLEASE.</p>	Rockville, MD

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	<p>I feel quite helpless because often the proponents of violence are so much more numerous than those that agree with me. But sometimes the majority is just wrong. Sometime we should learn that we need not kill everything that gets in our way. Thank you again.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>I am concerned about the OVERPOPULATION of deer in the city and recommend they be located and a number of deer be eliminated. Deer have eaten my plantings as well as those of my neighbors. I have lost interest in maintaining the green area around my property due to the cost of replacing these landscape plants the energy required to plant them. I'm involved in a losing battle with deer. With the increase in accidents caused by deer, I also worry about a car accident. There is potential for injury, as well as the good possibility my insurance company would "total" my car, and give me a minimal payment. It would be costly to replace my 8 year old well-maintained car with low mileage in that event. I regularly see deer running along Wooton Parkway, Dundee Rd and Falls Rd. Fortunately, I have seen them so far. Aerial observation at times when deer run is something I recommend. Then you can ascertain, for those who doubt, that there is overpopulation; it also allows you to pinpoint the elimination of a determined percentage. I also recommend a controlled hunt, --hiring sharp shooters to thin the herds and give the meat to homeless centers or another charity. Large privately owned properties in the city also require a strategy and continued enforcement. Places like Lakewood Country Club, the Thomas Farm and John Hopkins acreage, Shady Grove University and the farm (now being developed) across from Rio are areas which come to mind. Their owners must be part of the solution, also. My experience with NIST 15-20 years ago show relocating deer doesn't work; nor do birth control procedures. I trust your committee will truly achieve results in thinning the deer population affecting our residents.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>
<p>CSR same individual to top of page 15</p>	<p>After keeping track of the Rockville City Deer Task Force for over a year, I am sorry to report, as in many towns, the government has been anything but transparent on the "deer issue." This is especially distressing as now is the time for public comment. It appears what Steve Mader, head of the Task Force, has shown to the public to comment on, is VERY different from the report his Task Force presented to Mayor and Council. From what Mr. Mader wrote to me today, he is sticking by the report as it is from the Task Force.</p> <p>Of course this makes it virtually impossible for citizens to accurately comment on a plan when our mayor, at least 2 members of council (haven't heard yet from the other 2 members) and others in attendance at the meeting when the comments were presented by the Task Force, came away with inaccurate scientific facts; and far worse, assumed that no alternatives would be tried and that deer were going to be killed, although they came away with at least 3 different ideas about how it was said that the deer would be killed!</p> <p>I would like to be able to avert what has happened and is happening in other local governments around the country. Due to lack of transparency in a town in NY, for example, a pro-deer group has been established, marches have occurred, protests have happened (some at council meetings), experts have agreed the town has the facts wrong, the town insists on a hunt, the pro-deer group has been on national TV, and has had to file Freedom of Information Act Requests, and now has a lawsuit going against the town.</p> <p>I and many other Rockville citizens are more than prepared to do all of the above, if it means this is the only way we learn the truth about the plan of murdering deer. Nevertheless, at all costs, for everyone's sake, we prefer desperately to be able to avoid these kinds of actions.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

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	<p>However, we refuse to stand by while the city already plans to kill Rockville's deer, refuse to release the details to the public and even to the mayor and council, and deny all scientific facts and alternatives regarding deer in their decisions.</p> <p>I can prove to you that Rockville's Task Force started out led by a gentleman who told me that he "couldn't wait to hunt," and how slanted the task force has been. I can prove to you the errors in facts by the Task Force. But most importantly, I demand, as a citizen, to know why mayor and council feel the hunt is going to happen and therefore are not considering alternatives nor expert facts; yet differ in telling the citizens how the deer will be hunted. The HOW is important for every Rockville citizen's safety and for the deer.</p> <p>So is the Task Force denying the entire report it put out for citizens to comment on in these few weeks; or are they putting out one thing yet telling council and mayor another thing?</p> <p>And frankly if we are keeping score, humans are the one species whose population and development are out of control. Deer do not cause Lymes Disease in any way. According to my insurance company, Erie insurance, hunts cause more auto accidents with deer--they are three to four times higher, and there are alternatives we could use to keep deer off the streets and prevent auto accidents with deer. Furthermore, my own previous hometown in NJ paid thousands of government dollars to eradicate all the deer. And since deer from other areas come in to take the place of those killed; and because a species reproduces to a greater extent when their numbers are lowered, more deer are there now and everywhere else in the country where there have been hunts of any kind. Of course hunters love this because it means they have an excuse to hunt every year. Rockville, we should not set this precedent!</p> <p>I originally applauded the Task Force in an interview I did with a local television station since it talked about inexpensive and humane alternatives including: checking yourself for ticks, roadside signs, roadside reflectors, higher fences, going to Home Depot to buy repellents to protect your plantings and many more ideas that have been scientifically proven to work. And there are many other alternatives/deterrents I'd be glad to discuss elsewhere. But how ridiculous are some of our citizens who post on Rockville Central who can't wait to eat venison; or the ever chanted hunters' excuse that they can donate meat to the needy. A deer killed with a bullet, the US government says, is poisoned by lead and not to be consumed. And it's actually cheaper to buy and donate from a local grocery store than to go hunting.</p> <p>I bought my home in 1987 ONLY because I have a patch of woods and a stream behind it and we can enjoy birdwatching and the occasional wildlife we see. Although the previous owner planted azalea bushes and other things that deer especially like as treats, we have had absolutely no destruction. My next door neighbors, avid bird enthusiasts, confirm they only once saw one deer run through their backyard. By the way, you are more likely catch Lymes' Disease from a bird than a deer.</p> <p>There is no reason for a hunt to take place whatsoever. And there is no way ANYONE can comment on a proposed hunt unless one knows whether a hunter would use bow and arrow, shotgun, net and bolt, etc. None of these are humane OR necessary, and all are dangerous to the public.</p> <p>In a city full of pavement, it is a pleasure to get to revel in nature. Furthermore, we have no right, just because we have the might, to take the lives of deer.</p>	

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	<p>Deer feel pain, fear, form friendships, have close family units, and even adopt the young of a dead deer.</p> <p>The City of Rockville needs to extend its time for public comment on the deer Task Force, tell the truth about the deer Task Force and if they are recommending a kill, the methods of the kill. Shame on them for being so disingenuous.</p> <p>I await a reply from the deer Task Force and the entire council and mayor. I must add kudos to the mayor who expresses the same concerns as I do, and says she asked the task force to clarify matters and it has not.</p> <p>Thank you. I am, very truly yours.</p> <hr/> <p>The main issue I was addressing is that the Task Force was asked during your meeting to detail how many deer would be killed, when, by what method, etc. They have not. The name of the company to be used has not officially been disclosed, nor how much each hunter on their payroll would cost year after year. As everyone knows, when a species' numbers are down, they reproduce more, bringing the numbers back up; this is great for hunters or people who want to spend tax dollars uselessly year after year on killing deer. A hunt will not mean Rockville therefore will end up with fewer deer. But if we do nothing, there won't be more deer, since like other species, they biologically regulate themselves.</p> <p><u>In fact, the public has been told, they simply need to read the Task Force report which, as the mayor and council pointed out during the meeting only, says virtually nothing about killing the deer.</u> From reading the report, the public would not know that you had already decided there would be no higher fences, or alternatives tried either. I do not consider myself to be stupid or an uninformed citizen. I seemed capable of teaching graduate students and of maneuvering through the West Wing of the White House during my presidential appointment. However, it was only after I asked the Mayor today about the minutes of the meeting with herself and council, did she direct me to a cumbersome, lengthy video of the meeting to watch. And I have been working on this issue 24/7 for I don't know how many months/years. Surely the average citizen would not take the time to find and watch this meeting. Especially when they have been shown the TASK FORCE REPORT AND TOLD TO COMMENT ON THAT. This is misleading and back door governing which is always to be challenged, especially when lives are at stake.</p> <p>How and when will the public, mayor and council learn the truth and details of a hunt? Does not the public deserve in fairness more time in which to make their comments based on what new material is received as requested by our mayor? <u>To answer one of your questions, the mayor during the council meeting, as she confirmed with me by phone, instructed the Task Force to "please let the people know" and asked them to clarify details of the proposed hunt in writing.</u> How negligent in doing your duties both legally and in serving the people that you all did not clamor for the details, let alone insist the Task Force come back to yet another meeting with those details before you continued your discussion.</p> <p>Since we are discussing the deer issue, I have expert testimony and personal observances to prove what the Task Force and/or council says about Lymes Disease, accidents with cars, fences and neighbors, killing deer will lead to a deer reduction, our homes are less attractive and valuable, the impact on birds and other species, the impact of reforestation, donating the dead deer for food for the needy, deer will become violent, etc. are simply factually</p>	

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	<p>inaccurate. Therefore, citizens will need to provide the actual facts which cannot be ignored or disputed. They are facts from whom anyone would call a reputable source(s). It is sad that the burden is on the backs of the tax payers when this task force met for so long.</p> <p>Then there are the assumptions presented as fact such as in Howard County or across the country, a certain thing happens--this surely cannot all be extrapolated to happen the same way in the City of Rockville.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that the Humane Society of the U. S. is not interested any longer in spending money to work on hunting issues as they did before they combined with other large groups. Ms. Brasted is certainly not an expert in this area, and it was well pointed out that she did not come to many meetings nor submit a minority report. She did tell me that she would attend meetings because having lived on the cul-de-sac which runs off of my street most of her life, she delighted in the area's wildlife, especially the deer, in this small section of Rockville. Nevertheless, I have a report from an HSUS employee who works only on urban wildlife.</p> <p>In addition, other wildlife biologists, lawyers, etc. from other large humane groups are willing to submit testimony.</p> <p>I personally object to many broad statements such as everyone knows someone who has been in an auto accident with a deer or who has been in one themselves; people will accept the need for a hunt, except for lay people who have not read the report; don't use the word hunt as it will alarm the lay people; fences are expensive; this is our only choice; bird watchers' activities have been limited, etc.</p> <p>As a former teacher and therapist, I can tell you that the mayor is correct in saying that a hunt would be emotional, and that children will know that if this is not sinister, it is difficult to accept. In fact I have other psychotherapists' testimony about this aspect of a hunt.</p> <p>Also, everyone writing to comment on the Task Force plan has been told to write to the Task Force. It is I who recommended to some people to write to mayor and council instead or also. It is doubtful that you have heard all the opinions therefore from the public as it is possible that most went to the Deer Task Force. To me this is closed government.</p> <p>We can all have differing opinions, and must respect each other's opinions. However, it was very sad to watch the meeting progress to the point when the deer started to be talked about as some inanimate and replaceable object. They are not that. I can't tell you how I regret and object to the use of my comments by Rockville Channel 11 and the county channel when I actually praised the task force for putting forth the idea that perhaps a little inconvenience on the part of humans (who are to blame for any deer overpopulation!) can be mitigated through education, fact, and preventative measures. Would not this be worth exploring before taking the life of another creature with needs, feelings, pains, and family and friendship structures similar to our own? It surely would mean less spending of precious government dollars.</p> <p>Believe it or not Piotr, I do not consider myself Queen of the citizens of Rockville. I am actually introverted partially as a result of my disability, and I am not known for sticking my nose into business where I have no say. Nevertheless, I do believe in doing my due diligence...and so....the following... For</p>	

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	<p>myself, after all that has so far been said and done, I will neither tolerate nor respect the opinion of someone who has either/or been brain washed; and/ or misunderstands this planet in such a bizarre way; and/ or is at the height of callousness to where one might wonder if she has sociopathic tendencies. I am referring to the horrific statements of Ms. Christine Davidson McCord which should frighten every human being when she says that we must teach in school and other places how we MANAGE NATURE. I hope everyone will think long and hard about that comment. If Ms. McCord is a paid employee of the environment division, as I think it said as the video whirled by; she needs to be relieved of her job in my opinion. As a former paid employee in the environmental department of a very well-known city, I can assure you I would have been fired for having uttered such complete and total nonsense which represents total lack of knowledge, perception, and disregard of what one is supposed to be somewhat expert in; as well as for how to best serve the public.</p> <p>Please forgive typos and the such as you will see it is rather late, but I wanted to get a response to you. I have tried my best to be honest with you and everyone else regarding the "emotionally charged deer issue." My letter is lengthy precisely because I have laid out what my arguments are and will be in a forthright manner. I would do no less in honorably dealing with my government; nor for the innocent deer.</p> <p>Very truly yours.</p> <hr/> <p>Dear Mayor and Rockville City Council: I am very concerned that I can find in no place the dates for public comment about the findings of the White Tailed Deer Task Force.</p> <p>I am also very concerned that the Task Force has yet to specify to you and to the public the exact details of the hunt.</p> <p>How can the public comment if they are commenting on a plan that has already been thrown out; and do not know that only a hunt is the option to be considered? Below is the letter I got from Steve Mader well after your July 11, 2011 meeting when I asked him to explain the details of the hunt. Obviously, from watching the meeting of July 11, this letter of August 2nd is in no means a correct representation from Mr. Mader.</p> <p>As I have before pointed out to the media and to you, this is non-transparent government and behind the door politics AT BEST. It is rapidly deteriorating as time goes by, much to my amazement and dismay for the public, the deer, and your reputations. The only person who has made any attempt to get Mr. Mader to tell the truth to the public, which he hasn't, is the Mayor. Mr. Gajewski, I responded to your letter in which you asked where the mayor requested of Mr. Mader that he clarify/explain in detail to the public about the hunt, but I have heard nothing back from you.</p> <p>So, as Mr. Mader implies, are you really going to approve the Task Force proposal, AND THEN LET THE TASK FORCE DECIDE TO HUNT OR NOT, BY WHAT METHOD, ETC? OR WHO IS "STAFF" THAT HE REFERS TO IN HIS LETTER BELOW?</p> <p>I have already asked council and mayor to get the details of the hunt, not what the task force put out, to the public; and the media needs the information as well. To my knowledge this has not been done. I am part of the public and have seen nothing in spite of working on this issue 21 hours a day, 7 days a</p>	

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	<p>week as I have already said.</p> <p>In addition, we do not even now yet know, though I have asked, when the public comment time ceases. I have been told the public can comment up until the Sept. council meeting; and yet I have read that Steve Mader says the public has 3 weeks from July 11 to comment.</p> <p>Are you all aware of the connections of Steve Mader to the firm he recommends to hire, who did do the hunt for Howard County? He swears they are above reproach in checking out their hunters. I have been told by a member of DNR just the opposite. What is Mr. Mader's, who said before the task force began that he "can't wait to hunt," connection exactly to the Howard County decision for a hunt and to the firm he recommends? Is he copying whatever Howard Co. decided?</p> <p>Are you aware of the costs of these repeated hunts for this year, let alone for years to come? How many people will be doing the hunting AND by which method? With tax dollars in short supply, I am not sure that the tax payers of Rockville would be in favor of the expenses of ongoing hunts. This needs to be disclosed. I really am shocked that I need to be the person to bring this up to you.</p> <p>Have you secured the huge amount of insurance you need to cover yourselves for this hunt?</p> <p>Did you know that all hunts have to be approved by the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources? Has this been approved?</p> <p>Why is Christine David McCord listed as a member of the task force from the Environmental Commission, yet also listed as a task force member as a citizen representative? This is at best, an oversight, but let's face it, it's unfair. She cannot be both.</p> <p>I am well aware that some of you are up for election in November, and that at least one of you is challenging the mayor for the position of mayor.</p> <p>How does this factor into your decisions?</p> <p>It would be lovely to receive these answers in writing on behalf of the current mayor and council as a whole where it is easy for anyone to not only see them; but to be made aware of all these revisions. I look forward to receiving them, as do the rest of Rockville's citizens, and the media.</p> <p>Thank you in advance.</p> <hr/> <p>Hi Phyllis,</p> <p>Below is the link to HSUS's expert on urban wildlife, Laura Simon's letter to another town and there are about 3 pages of attachments. They include info on deer/auto collisions, Lymes Disease, and birth control.</p>	

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	<p>Thanks. http://www.cayugadeer.org/pdfs/deisresponse_simon.pdf</p> <hr/> <p>John Hall, Rockville resident stated today in writing which he said was not confidential: I do not care for the idea of "hunting" generally in our City, as a matter of principle. To answer your question, however: were I to be given the opportunity to vote on the matter, I would likely decline to endorse it." (8/6)</p> <p>So here is another citizen opposed to the hunt.</p> <p>Very truly yours.</p> <hr/> <p>Dear Council President, Mayor, and Council Members:</p> <p>I was speaking by telephone with member Phil Andrews a month or more ago about any deer hunt plan in the county, because I was concerned about a hunt being proposed in the City of Rockville.</p> <p>At that time Phil stated that he and I would have to "agree to disagree" over the fact that I insisted that there was not a link between white tail deer and Lyme disease.</p> <p>Although the below forwarded email applies to a proposed hunt in an area in NY, I hope that you will read some experts' words again stating what we have known for years--deer do not spread Lyme Disease. Deer kills will not lessen the prevalence of Lyme Disease in the area.</p> <p>I must say that in reading the minutes of the deer commission in Rockville, I was pleased to see under the heading of Lyme Disease that they have a link to the CDC site which states nothing about white tailed deer carrying "black legged ticks" (which most of us incorrectly call "deer ticks" and thus blame on deer). Sadly however, Rockville contradicts itself in its main pdf about the deer population.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding alternatives to hunts. I am happy to provide county council and city council members with information of proven ideas to work with a deer population that is cheaper, more effective, and more humane than a hunt.</p> <p>(for Rockville only: I have been informed that the Rockville commission for studying the deer was actually a commission to study HOW to kill the deer. It is by design or by accident, that I, the first citizen to ask for a form to apply to join the newly formed commission in Rockville, did not get one until it was too late in spite of my many calls; and now due to my disability, I could not attend meetings. In fact Steve Mader was upset that I had "heard" about</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>the commission--I had read about it in the Rockville News. I object that someone who states that he can't wait to start hunting and is from the rec department leads this commission. I have found him and his secretary to be incompetent and he lacks severely in people skills.)</p> <p>(for County and Rockville: I am not sure if this is true for the county, it is true for Rockville. I have tried to influence legislators in Annapolis about deer and bear hunts for as long as I can remember. In case you did not realize this, it seems that legislators naturally call upon DNR for facts, as has Rockville's Deer Commission; however it has been well known for years that everyone on DNR will always be pro-kill because all except one, who is a professor, are hunters. In chambers to testify before state legislators, they sit with the hunters--that is how silly it is. That "one" DNR representative who opposes deer hunts is willing to speak in person with any of you. I know too that Rockville also included at my insistence one person from the Humane Society but she is usually absent, does not speak up, and is busy doing other things; and indeed the Humane Society has changed many of their policies, and is no longer against hunting.)</p> <p>Very truly yours.</p> <hr/> <p>Thank you for your response. I am very appreciative of it, however facts stated in the response are simply wrong.</p> <p>Yes, I finally got an application with less than 24 hours to apply. I am totally disabled. I don't check my email daily because physically I cannot. At the time I saw the application, I did not have time to fill it out.</p> <p>At first, until I read updates/minutes of the meetings, I thought the meetings were to explore issues. IT WAS WHEN I SAW MINUTES that I realized the purpose was simply HOW to kill the deer, nothing more, even if a few other ideas were briefly explored. In addition, since they state they plan to follow Howard County's hunt guidelines, of course they are thinking hunting, not thinking alternatives.</p> <p>And who would present these ideas? Steve Mader told me he can't wait to hunt and as I informed you all of DNR except for one person is pro-hunting. Why wouldn't Mader stand behind them?</p> <p>And if you read my letter clearly, it gives kudos to the Rockville task force for linking to the CDC site about Lymes Disease, so no need for Mr. Mader to reiterate that issue below.</p> <p>I am very dissatisfied with the validity of the task force and with this answer. Furthermore, Steve Mader remains negligent in issuing me an apology for his consistent rudeness, for trying to hide the task force from me, and for not getting the application to me in a timely fashion as I was the first person to apply and could have recommended others, such as the DNR rep who opposes any Rockville hunt.</p> <p>I at least hope that now Phill Andrews and other members of County Council don't think that deer are responsible for Lymes Disease anymore.</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>This is clearly a stacked deck against me and the deer, and no one desires to try alternatives. I am sad, mad and disgusted. I will let you know when I am slated to be on CNN to speak about Rockville's Task Force in hopes that you can watch. By no means do I speak only on behalf of the deer and myself.</p> <hr/> <p>Very truly yours.</p> <hr/> <p>As I have asked many times already, I would like to know, as I'm sure other residents would, when the meeting is where the White Tailed Deer Task Force will present again to the Mayor and City Council.</p> <p>Please confirm that the meeting will be on Oct. 24, 2011 as previously noted. People need to make babysitting arrangements, work arrangements, etc. far in advance these days in order to be anywhere on a week day evening.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your cooperation in confirming this date now.</p> <p>Very truly yours.</p> <hr/> <p>Here's what is confusing me. I understand from Maggie Brasted that some people on the Task Force such as herself and others were not allowed to "vote."</p> <p>I don't understand what this means. Were any votes taken, and if so, who was allowed to vote and why please.</p> <p>I did see in your 9/7/10 meeting that Stuart Hagan took a quick survey to see where the residents group stood on lethal measures, but that doesn't answer my question I don't think.</p> <p>Also, I noticed during the presentation to the mayor and council on 7/11/11 that someone, perhaps the mayor, asked for a minority report and was told there was none. Did the Task Force ask someone to prepare a minority report and did that person(s) not follow through?</p> <hr/> <p>Thanks in advance for your time and attention to this matter</p> <hr/> <p>Many thanks for your response. Could you please give to me the names of the residents who voted on 3/29/11 to be sure I have them right? I was unaware as to who was present at that meeting. However I now see online that 4 residents attended that meeting. Do you really think such a large issue can be voted on by 4 lay people? Also, those minutes were not previously available to the public. I only just now found them. Don't you think it might be unfair if not illegal to start putting up things on the website that weren't there before? Please confirm the names of the citizens who voted.</p> <p>Are there 6 residents on the task force as it says on the link which is the ONLY place the city has told us all to comment on http://www.rockvillemd.gov/government/commissions/rpab/deer/ ? Did the other 2 residents have no vote? Why is that link dated 7/26/11?</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>In addition, I see the following place now has popped up on the Rockville government website. However there is no date on it. Could you please provide one? http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/wildlife/RockvilleDeerPolicy.pdf</p> <p>Can you please tell me how the public was notified that they have until 9/9 to comment? I see online that Sept. Rockville Reports gives that date, but that Report has not reached me and the mail has already come today, giving the residents very little time to respond, just as you gave me previously with the application for the deer task force. Sadly, I only got that application when I had no time to respond, especially as I am disabled, and yet, I was the first person in the whole city to request an application. You know you would not have chosen me anyway, as you knew my views and they are contrary to yours as you informed me that you are a hunter. At best, this is discriminatory toward a disabled resident. What would make you, as a city employee who is the head of a task force come out and tell a resident of the city that you "can't wait to hunt?" instead of trying to remain neutral? <i>In fact, there would not have been any member on that task force representing the deer if at the last minute I hadn't notified HSUS that a task force was forming. Never was it said that only residents on the task force could vote for or against the plan.</i></p> <p>Also, could you please tell me how someone against the hunt can videotape the hunt, should one occur please? It should be a matter of public record, after all. I know that safety is an issue, but I'm sure we could figure out a way to videotape with the advanced technologies we have these days. I would also respectfully ask that veterinarians be able to observe.</p> <p>I am also wondering why Mr. Hagen, as he did today on NPR radio, insists on spouting un-truths, such as that deer contribute to Lyme Disease? I understand this is a touchy issue with him as his daughter had the disease as did I, but I have provided fact upon fact from every possible source to the city, including from Governor O'Malley, that the reduction of deer will cause no reduction of the prevalence of Lyme Disease. And this is only one un-truth about only one issue. Constantly un-truths are spouted, every one of which I have answered as have others. When people supposedly representing a city government consistently put un-truths out to the public, it is impossible for the public to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Can you tell me why the City said to comment only on one document all this time, http://www.rockvillemd.gov/government/commissions/rpab/deer/, when now about 38 are popping up? Most residents don't have the luxury to continuously monitor the Rockville site for deer information. They are busy with families, jobs, school, etc.</p> <p>Please advise why the report lists several things, while the meeting on 7/11/11 to Mayor and Council focused so much on a hunt.</p> <p>In addition, how is the public to comment when they don't know even if there will be a hunt, and if there will be, what kind of hunt, as shooting and bows and arrows were discussed. Doesn't there have to be another vote when and if you decide on a hunt?</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your time and attention. Have an enjoyable Labor Day weekend.</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>I see that Maggie Brasted's name (of the Humane Society of the US) appears prominently on the plan on which the citizens are to comment, especially as they list the task force members alphabetically.</p> <p>However, I am told that Ms. Brasted was unable to vote as were Mr. Timko and Mr. Gibbs. I especially feel deceived and cheated now that Steve Mader purposely left me off the citizens of that Task Force although I was the first to ever call for an application which he did not have ready at the time. Apparently he, who stated "I can't wait to hunt" BEFORE the task force was formed, was a voting member.</p> <p>In addition to the already disgusting lack of transparency in this whole ordeal; I recall at the 7/11/11 mayor and council meeting, that someone, perhaps the mayor, asked for the minority report and was told that there was none.</p> <p>Yet HSUS insists they knew nothing about their minority report's due date except for the 9/9 comment due date.</p> <p>What is going on? Are many of you too focused on the election?</p> <p>This political nonsense while human and deer lives are potentially at stake is repulsive. And it is the stuff that lawsuits are made of.</p> <p>I guess the hunters thought they could get away with this. They can't. What a waste of my tax dollars already!</p> <p>Please get back to me and tell me if you think the task force is still correct in what they told you about being able to donate meat to the homeless as we have undoubtedly shown you that this is false as well. I eagerly await your response to this please. And also, please let me know exactly how the citizens of Rockville have been notified about the results of the 7/11 meeting; as well as how they have been notified about the comment date ending 9/9. Please also confirm that the next presentation of the task force is at your 10/24 meeting since people need to make arrangements now to attend. No response will mean more for the attorneys so I hope at least one of you will respond, as I really would like to avoid a law suit, and am certain you would as well.</p> <p>Thank you very much in advance for your continued time and attention to this proposed murder.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>I was just thinking, "Rockville needs to do something" yesterday. Our home on Mannakee backs up to the UU Church near Welsh Park. We regularly find deer sleeping in our back yard, and often see them (even in the daytime) in the church front yard. Many of the deer I see in the winter and early spring are painfully thin. I believe that a euthanasia program is needed to 1) ensure that deer don't overgraze to their own starvation, 2) ensure that we have parkland left, 3) minimize the risk of lime disease being spread in our own back yards 4) protect our plantings. The following NPR story takes an interesting angle on deer damage to parkland: http://www.npr.org/2011/06/15/137192604/what-does-more-deer-mean-for-forests</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	I understand that deer can demolish entire yards of their beauty, but we have a backyard area in Plymouth Woods that is perfect for the deer and I do not want anything to happen to them that is lethal. Please try to pursue all humane methods as much as possible. Thank you.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	You have my full support to carry out a lethal deer control programs. Due to a lack of any control predator the deer population is larger by far than can be sustained by the environment. Deer grazing has stripped woods of young saplings to replace aging trees. When our current mature trees die there will be no trees to replace them. An additional concern is the high rate of collisions with deer that are quite dangerous to drivers. Please expedite this control program.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I live in Rose Hill Falls and we have about 13 deer living right behind my house. I encounter them almost every day. They are not afraid of cars or people and I have stood within two feet of them before moving (me not them). Each night I come home from a meeting or out to dinner, I pray that they will not run out into the road. I recommend that we use two of the methods of control listed in your draft program. On page 13 and 14 you list Direct Reduction and Reproductive Control. I am in favor of using both of these. Thank you very much for your service to Rockville's communities.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I am a long time resident of the Twinbrook Forest neighborhood of Rockville and I am very concerned about the overpopulation of deer in this area. In the last decade the deer have eaten the foundation plantings around our home and made it impossible to grow and enjoy seasonal flowers and vegetables. Also the yard is covered with deer scat and the spread of Lyme's disease is a concern. Allowing taller backyard fences will be a help for those families that can afford the expense but even then it only protect a portion of the property. There is nothing natural about seeing deer browsing front yards like cows which is the current situation. The deer herd must be culled to a level that does not force the deer into the residential neighborhoods looking for food. If there were a natural predator then there could be some balance. Without that the city needs to institute winter hunts or other methods to cull the deer herd.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the topic of managing the deer population in Rockville. As a resident of heavily wooded New Mark Commons, we enjoy occasional visits by deer to our backyard where we feed birds and unintentional squirrels, chipmunks and overnight raccoons. Our deer are so bright that they figured out a way to tip a squirrel-proof feeder so they could eat birdseed. They take naps in the area behind our home and stroll or gallop through the community clearing 3-4 foot fences effortlessly. We have yet to experience a car collision. We have lost hosta and small flowers to deer, used Deer Off and finally taken to putting mesh screens over shorter plants which work quite effectively. We changed feeders. We enjoy watching baby deer grow and we co-exist. I read your info and was not impressed with evidence that deer pose a clear and present major danger to residents, through Lyme disease, auto accidents or plant destruction. I'd like to see a survey of residents to ask the frequency w/which they have observed or experienced deer problems. How important is deer control to residents? I'd like the survey to also ask residents for their attitudes toward options ranging from hunting to cull the herd (bow and arrow deer hunting was employed in an Annapolis community where former New Mark neighbors live), to tranquilizing and relocation and/or sterilization of male deer if feasible, to the current policy of simple tolerance. Are there effective alternative to killing like resident education? In these difficult economic times for government, I'd also like to include a final question in every Rockville citizen survey where residents get to rate the importance of addressing problems including core services such as healthcare, housing, and transportation – compared to the area of concern of each Task Force. When you conduct a sound survey, my responses will be: (1) Deer are not a very important problem; (2) Practice tolerance and resident education; and (3) Devote scarce resources to core City services and other pressing problems.	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	Please take action to curtail the overburdening deer population. They are a nuisance that cause health and safety threats (Lyme disease) and vehicle accidents. I know Rockville residents who had lime disease and were in an accident caused by deer.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I support all the task force recommendations except for one - I strongly oppose a change to the fence height limit. Before you approve this change, please come to my house and see the 8-foot spite fence erected by my neighbor. Their fence is a depressing eye-sore, but a 10-foot tall fence would make my yard look like a prison. I applaud your deer management efforts, but please do not increase the fence height limit.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	Let's get away from some of those ideas in the report and use the best way to control the deer population. And that is controlled kill. I don't plant anything that deer eat anymore, and I do not intend to put up a 10-foot fence. Also, fewer deer should decrease incidence of Lyme disease, which has infected some of my acquaintances, one seriously. Human lives are more important than deer.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I have lost the battle with deer. I have lived in my home since 1968, only about 1 1/2 blocks from City Hall. I used to have what I considered a showplace yard in the summer. I spent thousands of dollars in flowers, shrubs etc. I had a wonderful vegetable garden. However, in the last two or three years the deer have devastated everything. I have tried to use netting, sprays and nothing works. They just shove right on in. Now my yard is nothing but chewed plants and hosta stubs. I did try a few hanging baskets but the other night they even came upon my back porch and chewed on one of my hanging plants. So I give up. Deer should live in a forest not in a city. I believe the only thing to do is kill them all. Just not some pansy deer hunt but an all-out war. Please get rid of the deer. Thank you.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I am totally in favor of a deer control tactic. On my way home last year southbound on New Hampshire Ave, from out of town, about 7 PM, a deer ran across our path. He hit the car, rolled over the hood and limped off into the woods. Although the car ran OK after that, there was terrible body damage, and a very shaken careful of passengers. It could have been a lot worse. In this time of increased Lyme disease from deer ticks, decreasing the deer population in the area would most definitely decrease the occurrence of Lyme disease. Make sure you track the statistics on this. Whatever method is chosen, be it in a controlled area, or by bow and arrow, steps should be taken to make sure that the deer meat is not wasted. There should be facilities available to take the meat for processing quickly. I have had deer stew and burgers and they are low fat and delicious. I also understand that the hunters would have to pay Rockville a fee for the permission to hunt, which would add to our coffers. It might replace the Rockville homeowner's credit of \$100. This was not passed for this year and is not on the budget for next year either.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	Just wanted to send my family's support for your efforts to reduce the deer population. Our landscaping and gardens have been eaten by the deer. I've also hit a deer doing substantial damage to my mini-van. Please take strong actions to reduce the population across Rockville.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	"Chute'm!" shouts Troy on <i>Swamp People</i> and so do I!!!! The attached photos show 4 BUCK Deer with 6 to 8 points, velvet covered racks of horn, in the back yard at dinnertime, Wed. 27 July 2011. Today we had a MOTHER Deer & 2 FAWNS in the yard at noon eating shrubs, Thurs. 11 Aug 2011. They frequently spend the day sleeping in bushes in my backyard. They have thinned out most of the underbrush including the wild azaleas and laurel bushes.	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>These deer are regular visitors at my yard in Rockville and getting bolder. A couple of years ago all we had to do to run them off was shake a towel at them. When we go to shoo them off now, they just stand there and stare at us until we walk close to them. Not a good idea! With our leash laws the deer aren't even harassed by dogs and are quickly learning to eat out of bird feeders! If you really want to reduce the deer herd in Rockville you will need to pay special attention to and concentrate on shooting does; as they produce 2 fawns a year in an abundant food area that is also a predator-free environment. The proposed option of using managed deer hunts in Rockville is the best solution and needs to be implemented soon.</p>	
WTDTF	<p>I am writing to commend the City of Rockville for conducting a thorough review of the realities and reasonable options for "people and deer" to coexist in Rockville. I want to further express my support to the recommendations within the deer task force report. It is my sincere hope that the Mayor and Council will approve all the needed changes/actions to position the City to implement new actions such as controlled deer hunts when conditions merit such an action. The growth of the deer population over the recent decade has led to gross overcrowding of deer, which hurts both them and humans. Since the normal deer population control mechanism (i.e., predators) is not a feasible solution, I wholeheartedly endorse controlled hunting in Rockville.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>There are several other alternatives besides lethal control of the deer in our city. We need to learn to co-exist with all of nature. The deer are not the only ones that over-populate but we prefer to think that way. I hope that city will find a non-lethal way to deal with the deer.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>Thank you for your extensive work and detailed presentation. I learned a great deal from your report, which helped me put into perspective the personal frustrations I have had with deer in my yard in the Hungerford neighborhood. By chance, or reduced numbers, or fencing along Wooton Parkway and by neighbors, or the deer netting which I have draped over hostas and sedum, I have had far fewer incidents of deer this year. Last year there was devastation, including scat all over the back yard, being awakened by deer outside my bedroom window wrestling with one another antlers to antlers, and my being treated for Lyme disease. I support your work and your recommendations, which promise to reduce the number of deer/vehicle accidents, reduce damage to the balance and ecology of the habitats and green spaces we all treasure, and reduce the chance of the residents of Rockville suffering the effects of Lyme Disease. Considering the cost - both injurious and monetary - of doing too little, or nothing at all, I urge the City of Rockville and the State of Maryland to budget sufficient funds for a. Public fencing along areas of heavy deer traffic such as Gude Drive and Wooton Parkway / Tower Oaks, b. Reproductive controls, c. Fly-over counts, and d. Direct reduction of the number of deer, as needed. Although "direct reduction" has caused a stir, appearing in the Gazette, and on WAMU, we must weigh the damage to individuals and families who are involved in deer/vehicle accidents and whose members suffer the possible long-term effects of un-diagnosed Lyme Disease. Finally, if neighbors wish to stall high fencing, that should be their choice, however, I do not support fencing ourselves in. Open neighborhoods encourage open neighborliness and mutual support. I encourage the Mayor and the members of the Rockville City Council to move forward on the recommendations of the White Tailed Deer Task Force.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>Deer have become an increasing problem in south Twinbrook. They mainly come from Rock Creek parkland/watershed at night and do damage to our community's gardens during their visits. They are vastly over populated and there is nothing "natural" about their overpopulation. Because of their numbers, deer are destroying the natural balance of plants and animals in our neighborhood. If the City is serious about maintaining an ecological environment, the City must take steps to drastically cull the herds of deer. Over-population of deer is not in any ones best interest, including the deer. The City must take substantial steps to reduce the number of deer.</p>	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	I'm a city resident, I reside at 406 Burgundy Dr. I'm opposed to the use of any sort of controlled hunt to control the deer problem.	Rockville, MD
CSR	Per Louise Atkins's phone conversation with resident: Individual is 87 years old and has lived in the City for 50 years. She wants the Mayor and Council to know that she is looking for action to address the deer problem in the City. Deer are pretty in their place, but not in her garden. She enjoys her garden, and is tired of the deer coming in and eating everything. She is not able to buy and implement deer prevention methods. If the City wants to leave the deer, then she would like the City or residents who support deer to fence her yard.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I support actively thinning the deer population, including the use of controlled hunts. Good luck.	Rockville, MD
CSR	A non-lethal solution to the deer problem would be the most humane thing to do. I can't believe that the council would even consider using a cross bow! These are animals people....if the county would stop all of the darn building and causing the congestion then they would not have this problem. Construction everywhere and nowhere for the poor deer to go. Would you like to have your home taken away from you and have nowhere to go but for someone to vote to just kill you???? I think not. I am OPPOSED to using any method unless is it no lethal!	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	Thank you for the opportunity to express my views about the growing deer problem. As a resident since 1973 in New Mark Commons I have enjoyed having the deer in my community. They have enhanced my enjoyment and pride in being a Rockville homeowner. I regret that their numbers have increased so significantly and am concerned about the eventual plans for killing the deer with guns or using bows and arrows. I am concerned that the deer will suffer unnecessarily by these measures and do not want them to occur on my property. I know that at the far end of my lot adjacent to Tower Oaks there has been deer hunting and trespassing for years. My neighbors and I have heard shots late at night and in the early morning. Tower Construction took down several poaching stands when building its nearby townhomes. Yet the hunting has continued. It has been my experience to have had deer hunters shine lights in my windows and my movements followed in tandem as I walked throughout my house. In daylight I have seen injured deer staggering next to my patio doors bloodied and weak from inhumane shooting. Phone calls to the Wildlife Administration were unsuccessful. My choice to reduce the deer population is the use of birth control measures. I understand that this is still experimental and unlikely to be implemented. If other means are used, residents should be informed who will be doing the killing and how much experience they bring to the task. Unskilled or marginally trained deer hunters who use bows and arrows are more likely to miss their targets and cause prolonged and painful deaths. We need to be the stewards of these lovely sentient creatures. I am hoping that Rockville will undertake this role humanely and safely. In doing so, I respectfully request that no deer killing be done in the wooded areas of my neighborhood. Thank you for your time.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	The deer population is continuing to grow. At one time we saw the consequences of the deer but not the deer themselves. Now we have three deer resting in our backyard in addition to others on our block. The most important reasons to control the deer are car crashes, deer ticks and destruction of wild growth (not suburban). If we don't take some action this is only going to get worse. Until there is an effective contraceptive option sharpshooters and hunting are the only practical alternatives. Something has to be done to address this issue.	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	To Whom It May Concern: Thank you for taking public comments. I would like to see this problem addressed with no physical harm done to any deer. The problem is that there are too many human animals. This is not the deers' fault, nor the fault of any other non-human animal.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I enclose a corrected copy of my comments. The last sentence of the next to last paragraph should have read <i>incompatible</i> COMMENT ON THE DEER TASK FORCE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY JACQUES GELIN The Report recognizes some indisputable facts: Deer vehicle accidents are costly and dangerous. State Farm Insurance estimates that such collisions in Maryland alone number close to 32,000 annually and cost drivers \$106 million. Lyme disease affects thousands of people in the United States and is “a serious human health concern.” Lyme disease, as I can personally attest, causes serious suffering. I recently saw a documentary that showed the terrible neurological damage the disease causes and in many cases, death. Deer are carriers of the blacklegged tick that cause the disease, and as the Report recognizes, “there is public concern regarding white-tailed deer and their relationship to the incidence of Lyme disease.” Deer cause serious, adverse ecological impacts to the natural environment, such as loss of native habitat, damage to flora and fauna (i.e., home and commercial landscaping) due to over browsing; these “increase the density of exotic invasives in natural areas.” The obvious damage to gardens within Rockville shows this. The Report leads to several conclusions: Any significant deer population within an urban area, such as Rockville, is unacceptable. Deer are not native to this area, but their population, particularly in urban areas, has increased because of a lack of natural predators. Deer have intruded in urban areas because their natural habitat has been destroyed by development. Lately, we have seen reports of the presence of coyotes, wolves, and even bears in this area. Since these wild animals obviously pose a threat to human safety and are not cute like Bambi no attempt to educate the public by conflict resolution initiatives or tolerance that lead to a form of mutually-satisfactory coexistence have been seriously suggested. The Task Force’s recommendations do not address the problem adequately. The Task Force recommends “study,” “evaluation,” “research,” “analyze,” “development of further recommendations,” providing education materials and information to the public, and the like. In short, the Task Force presents a perpetual list of non-actions that will not solve the fact that the presence of deer in Rockville is incompatible with the health, safety and welfare of the City’s residents. What the City needs is an action plan. Further research and study will not solve the deer problem, they will merely postpone it. If the deer cannot be relocated in a humane fashion, then they must be killed by a managed hunt conducted by professionals. If, as appears, the City needs statutory authorization, then the Mayor and Council should seek it, and get on with solving the deer problem.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I am in favor of managed deer hunts to keep populations in check. I remember when I was in high school many years ago we studied "the balance of nature." When a particular species populates to a certain extent other natural forces keep it in check or at a certain levels. For example if the deer population exceeds a certain number the deer may contract a disease that may or may not be transferrable to humans. Deer in WI have contracted something called Wasting disease. They also get ticks which transmit Lyme disease to humans. Under "normal" conditions predators would increase at the same rate as deer to maintain a stable population. Since we have eliminated predators such as wolves deer populations are expanding exponentially. Thus deer will be held in check through starvation as they exceed the available food supply or will die as a result of disease. Few people would opt for reintroducing wolves, panthers, and other predators. People who see deer as "Bambi" are often ignorant of these realities. The quality of life of deer allowed to multiply without checks goes down. They will get diseased, starve, become traffic fatalities, etc. if allowed to multiply unchecked. Sterilization may be an option that I am unfamiliar with. My thoughts are that it is probably expensive and ineffective otherwise we would be hearing more about it.. In these hard economic times few people are apt to support increased taxation to keep populations in check through sterilization. I live within the city limits of Rockville and have seen a mature dead deer near Watts Branch in the spring. The carcass is no longer there. Most likely it was	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	carried off and dispersed by dogs who then come back to their owners and lick them on the face. Deer harvested through managed hunts could be used to help feed the homeless making the meat available to soup kitchen like entities. Managed hunts could increase State revenues by offering special license for a fee to hunters for this purpose. Where deer are in fairly close proximity to humans, bow and arrow licenses could be issued and firearms not allowed.	
CSR	Dear Mayor and Council, My husband and I understand that you will be voting to change the law to allow hunting of deer, with firearms, in Rockville. We think that this is an excellent idea. The deer are large, destructive animals, and they are wandering the streets in our neighborhood. We suggest that the Rockville police be allowed to shoot deer on the streets whenever they encounter them. Thank you	Rockville, MD
CSR	I am writing to oppose your plans to permit deer hunting with the use of firearms as a means to control the deer population in Rockville. Please seek more humane alternatives to resolve this issue, Thank you.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	Bob Baker, what does he know. Look I've bow killed over 500 deer in Montgomery county with Crop damage permits. Using the right equipment I may have lost a half dozen deer out of all them. 99% of the deer were down with in eye sight. My son and I hunt many back yards in Potomac and 4 farms in Poolesville. I'm currently working with a friend to hunt the air park in the county. I have hunted with crossbows for 30 years , been a VP of the Maryland Bow hunters Society and organized many hunts and placed hunters with home owners who want deer gone. Taking of deer can be done with very little exposure to the public and I like to do it to the point that all the public might see is my van parked .	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	Thanks , I have a doe and her fawn living in my back yard in Twinbrook. I just hope no one bothers her and she moves back down to the Rock creek park before she of her fawn cause an accident on Twinbrook Parkway. Accidents with deer are the major reason I have so many places to hunt in Potomac. I own a furniture restoration shop and my customers come in and see the deer heads hanging on the wall and they ask if I hunt LOL well I just say Da LOL. Then tell me their horror stories and ask me if I can remove deer from their neighborhood. I spend some time with them telling them all the regulations and if it works out I hunt the back yards. I have spoken with the city council before for Md Bow hunting Society to get some of the setback rules changed. Without these changes I would be very had to remove deer from the city areas around the county. If you would like to speak with me about this further you can contact me at 301-948-6652	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	I am in favor of a controlled hunt to thin the deer population. The meat should then be given (as it is in New York, I think) to non-profit organizations that feed the homeless and the poor.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	Dear Sirs: I support the proposal to thin the deer herd in Rockville. I am mystified by the deification of deer by political activists in the area. Deer have	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>driven out a number of species from our forests, threaten motorists, and wreak havoc by wandering into buildings. Without a natural predator there is no way to thin the herd naturally. I heard a presentation by MOCO Parks about this problem and it was quite illuminating. It was crystal clear that there is no way to address the problem without a kill.</p> <p>This is an issue which is dominated by people who are, I believe, misinformed. They are far more vocal than those of us who would like to see the deer population thinned. I hope that you will not forget the many of us (I suspect a majority) who support a kill. Perhaps Rockville could be more aggressive about educating the public. The gentleman who gave the presentation to our neighborhood was quite convincing.</p>	
WTDTF	<p>So sorry to hear that Rockville is even considering the killing of the deer. I have been a resident here for over 55 years and I am appalled that this even considered an option. This may be the only time that I have been ashamed to say that I am a Rockville resident. There other ways to control the deer population, lets please give those a chance.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>Our house is next to the Glenora tributary stream and the forest around this stream. In recent years, sightings of deer in our backyard and front yard have become very common, and there are more animal droppings than in the past. That makes it impossible for us to enjoy or work in the yard. Gardening has become impossible because the deer eat the young plants. Even small shrubs in the front yard, potted plants near the house, and spring tulips have been eaten. We are very concerned about the reports of Lyme disease associated with deer. We are very concerned about the hazard to drivers in the area.</p> <p>In the past, the City maintained a grassy area between our backyard and forested area. In recent years, the City has decided not to maintain the grassy area and to allow more forested growth on the former grassy area. This trend will apparently continue with the work on the Glenora Stream Tributary scheduled for next year. This means our backyard will be adjacent to a heavily forested area.</p> <p>The draft report notes on page 3 that "deer prefer the edges of forests." Our experience supports this statement. When the grassy area was eliminated, we saw and noticed more evidence of deer in our yards. We would like to see the City maintain a grassy area between our backyard and the forested area as a buffer zone between us and the forest so that our yard is not at the forest edge. We recommend that the report address the situation of residents who live right at the edge of a forest.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>Please do not shoot the deer. Try deer birth control. Try putting them asleep temporarily and moving them out of the urban corridors. They must not be shot. It is cruel and inhumane. We should not kill nature's creatures: they all have a purpose. I love it when they come in my yard: it is a pleasure.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>As residents of Rockville for the past 45 years, we write to urge adoption of the most extreme measures possible to reduce drastically the deer population. The human population has overrun the deer habitat, forcing the deer to overrun our human habitat. On a practical level, no longer can we produce the vegetables we once had to eat year-round. On an aesthetic level, no longer can we enjoy most of the beautiful flowers that once made our homes and neighborhoods so lovely. And on a safety level, our yard is invaded by wild animals that endanger our household pets and potentially spread disease.</p>	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>In addition to deer, this includes in our case a family of foxes, as well as hundreds of smaller animals. There should be a comprehensive effort to prevent further explosion of all these animals through their natural reproduction, and to reduce dramatically (ideally almost completely) the wild animal population by lethal means and/or removal to wild habitat. They are beautiful creatures who should not be living in such close proximity to our homes. It is well past time to take control of this problem which has exploded while developers continued to build and our planners paid no attention to the problem created. We should not be forced to consider the major expense of a high fence, creating a kind of suffocating enclosure, to enjoy our residence.</p>	
WTDTF	<p>Dear Mayor and Council:</p> <p>Thank you for making the this important report available for public review and comment. I appreciate the opportunity to share my opinion about local issues that affect me.</p> <p>Upon reading the plan, I was struck by the fact that the recommendations did not directly address one of the main causes of the problem - the loss of habitat due to development. In the Overview, the report discusses "dramatic ecological changes, including development practices that have fragmented forests and farms, that have affected many species, especially the whitetailed deer," yet none of the recommendations addresses the city's development policies or strategies. It seems to me that this is very shortsighted. It is also quite ironic that an article announcing a public hearing on annexation of the former Reed Brothers Ford dealership for the purposes of building a 417 unit apartment building appears on the same page of Rockville Reports as the article discussing this task force report.</p> <p>If the city continues to encourage "development" of its green space, it will eventually have to eliminate most of the deer population. Please reject the draft report until it adequately addresses the causes of the problem. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Rockville, MD
CSR	<p>We are in favor of a hunt to help reduce the Rockville deer population. Herds have grown out of control, posing a safety danger to drivers of motor vehicles, increasing the tick population and hence the incidence of Lyme disease, and destroying the habitat of other wildlife. Homeowners can protect their plantings with high fences such as the one I installed around my vegetable garden. However, the more significant issues will remain unresolved.</p> <p>Thank you for establishing the Deer Task Force. Please extend our thanks to its members for their many hours of research that have educated the citizens of Rockville about the numerous aspects of this challenging, controversial issue.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>In reading the comments regarding the problems caused by large numbers of deer in Rockville, I was flabbergasted that not one mention was made of Lyme Disease. Lyme is a far more serious problem than deer eating landscapes and the very rare occurrence of causing a car accident. It is a debilitating disease caused by deer ticks carried by deer with far reaching health issues. Lyme affects every system of the body, causes dementia, heart issues, destroys lives and can lead to death. It is misdiagnosed, misunderstood, overlooked and mistreated most of the time. On top of that, it is in epidemic mode in MD and VA as I write this. In order to deal with this huge issue in VA, the governor formed the VA Lyme Disease Task Force-see report online. They concluded that it IS an epidemic, it is a chronic illness often causing patients upwards of \$100,000 for treatment (never covered by insurance), treatment</p>	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>for chronic Lyme is long term and on and on. The task force recommended a proactive approach to controlling deer populations-suggestions included a managed hunt or birth control. The one thing not debatable in the report is that it is an extremely serious issue, and something has to be done! I am not advocating wholesale slaughter of animals, but merely want to point out that the over population of deer in our community goes far beyond the deer eating my impatiens or getting in the way of oncoming cars. When making decisions about how to manage over population, you need the whole picture. To better understand Lyme Disease more clearly, see the documentary Under Our Skin.</p> <p>Concerned for Rockville's citizens.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>I contracted Lyme disease in the spring of 2010. 2) This year, I saw a large deer, early one morning, galloping west on Old Georgetown Road, across the Rockville Pike. 3) I have often seen dead deer, apparently hit by motor vehicles, on Rockville streets. My understanding is that, when deer overpopulate, some die slow, painful deaths from starvation. Please cull the herds in the most humane ways available. Thank you for considering my opinion,</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>I am in favor of a strong emphasis on lethal options. These large animals collide with automobiles (both my children as new drivers), thus endangering the lives of humans and causing property damage. Deer damage real estate by eating plants. They bring ticks and Lyme disease into our back yards! They strip the wooded areas of plants.</p> <p>Deer do not belong in heavily populated areas. With no natural predators, deer need to be controlled by humans.</p> <p>We do not need 10-foot fences around our property. We need to be protected from deer that roam in our neighborhoods. They should be extirpated from these areas.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>Urban deer have been a growing problem (pun intended) in Rockville, MD for five-plus years now. I grew up in the house I am currently living in and my parents never had a problem with deer...squirrels, chipmunks, and an occasional raccoon, but never deer. Today we're inundated with them.</p> <p>Deer inside Rockville city limits are causing extensive damage to our yards and gardens. The devour our plants, costing us money and time. They also pose health issues. We are finding more and more ticks in our yard, on our clothing, and on our daughter's two dogs when they come to visit.</p> <p>It's hard to tell just how many deer are lurking around, because no one keeps an exact count. Last week, though, my husband spotted 6 deer --two moms and 4 fawns--in our yard, dining on our plants. Within the last couple of years, two of our neighbors put up tall deer fences in their yards, at a tremendous cost. While those fences, which are apparently part of your proposal, are probably effective, my husband and I are both retired, with a yard twice as large as our two neighbors, and we simply cannot afford to put up a fence. Therefore, we are begging the Mayor and Council to do something to solve the problem.</p> <p>My mother-in-law used to make this funny statement right before she squashed a spider or bug inside her home. She would say, "If you had just stayed</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>outside, you could have enjoyed the entire summer". I feel the same way about the deer. If they lived in the woods, away from people, then perhaps they could live a long life. However, these deer "live" in my yard. I often find them just lying and relaxing at the back of our yard, resting after devouring many of our plants. My husband and I have sprayed our plants with a deer deterrent spray. We've used fox urine and we try to only buy deer resistant plants. As you already know, none of these suggestions actually work. In fact, I have noticed that the Rockville deer sometimes don't touch the plants that they supposedly love and, instead, eat the deer resistant plants. Go figure!</p> <p>Although my tone might sound jovial, I can assure you that I am very upset about the growing deer population in our neighborhood and the seeming lack of a plan to do something about them. My suggestion is to "round them up" and send them to the wilderness somewhere, but if that suggestion is not realistic then I say we have to allow them to be killed and use the deer meat to feed the poor. I am sure that, particularly in this terrible economy, many people would gladly take free deer meat.</p>	
WTDTF	<p>Earlier this summer, for the first time in the 16 years I have lived in East Rockville, and the proverbial stones throw from Town Center, I had deer grazing in my garden. There was not only the evidence of eaten plants, but I actually saw and chased away deer from my own and neighboring yards.</p> <p>This deer issue goes beyond some eaten vegetation in my own garden. There is the deer - vehicle collision issue, which a member of my household has had first hand experience with, and also concern over the deer tick - Lyme disease issue.</p> <p>The local deer may have adapted to living amongst humans, but their natural predators have not, and indeed could not be tolerated living in a human populated area. Therefore, to keep the local ecology in some semblance of balance, it is our obligation to reduce the deer overpopulation. Excess numbers of deer are a detriment to everyone and everything - farmers, motorists, gardeners, the local ecology and the deer themselves.</p> <p>A hunt, which merely mimics nature's own means of deer population control, can hardly be called inhumane, and I daresay is the most cost effective means of deer control that we have.</p> <p>Therefore, all signs point to a hunt being the way to address this problem.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>I want to express my support of more active deer management by the city. I favor the proposal to revise current city codes to allow for direct reduction measures, specifically including managed hunts. Surely anyone living near a park in Rockville must realize that managed hunts are needed to control the deer population. Please do not let animal rights activists from out of state dissuade you.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>I am a long time Rockville resident and avid hunter. I would like to have the opportunity to serve a public interest and participate in a life long sport within the town I live. The practice of deer managed hunts occur every year and in most every town where the deer population has overrun its habitat. The yearly destruction of real and personal property has a growing price tag. To kill deer with one's car is dangerous to the vehicles inhabitants, a real and immediate expense; and is inhumane to the animal. The wasting remains of deer littering the roads is a barbaric site most citizens find revolting. There</p>	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>are many independent and state programs that facilitate the managed need of the city with the sport of bow hunting. Rockville seasonally stock ponds and creeks then sponsor a grandfather/grandchild fishing season. These managed fishing initiatives (Watts Branch) allow us to share the history of our outdoor spirit with the next generation.</p> <p>I propose Rockville sponsor a managed deer bow hunt yearly. The state does so successfully in and around neighborhoods of Montgomery County. (ex. Strider in Germantown) Many private bow hunting clubs provide deer management in HOA's also in Montgomery County. These programs have records to stand on.</p> <p>I do not favor firearm hunts with night vision sponsored by law enforcement. Rather than saddling the taxpayer with a law enforcement "overtime bill" Rockville could sponsor a managed hunt lotto for a fee and leverage the "take" to provide packaged meals for the many shelters in and around Rockville.</p> <p>A sponsorship by Rockville City that leverages the use of property, wildlife and citizen participation on behalf of taxpayer funded shelters for men, woman and children is a model for smart government.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>We live at 315 Farragut Avenue, not far from the northern part of Rock Creek Park. A few years ago, deer were eating all the plants in our yard and crapping all over. The City of Rockville response to our complaint was that we needed to coexist with the deer. :>(</p> <p>A county Managed Deer Hunt resulted in a significant reduction in crap in our yard and damage to flowers and plants. :>)</p> <p>We fully support a managed deer hunt.</p> <p><u>Note: Second e-mail:</u></p> <p>The major concern that I have is that the deer would be severely injured instead of killed. They were here first. It's heartbreaking to see that the City of Rockville has to arrange a managed deer hunt to control their population. With the increased development throughout the state, there is no place for them to go. I am not sure what the answer is but this is truly heartbreaking. They are beautiful animals.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>We live next to Potomac Woods Park. A few nights ago, there were 6 deer in the yard behind ours, and I have seen several deer in front yards on our block as well. I am concerned about the overpopulation as well as the fact that deer carry ticks. I am definitely in favor of controlled hunts</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>Although I see deer almost daily in the yard of my Rockville home, and can understand how they need to coexist with us in an appropriate way, I DO NOT support lethal means of managing them. I do support taller fences and other more humane methods.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
	Rockville is a great place to live; keep it that way for the wildlife, too.	
WTDTF	<p>I am firmly against killing deer to deal with population issues. I do not pay extra high taxes for the privilege to live in Rockville, MD and have my money used to hire people to kill animals. I will allow my tax dollars to be used for non-lethal ways to provide population control as so many other jurisdictions have smartly done.</p> <p>I live near an area populated by deer. We also have pets and human beings enjoying the outdoor areas. Guns can do terrible things to everything that may come near them.</p> <p>I do not want to live in a community known world-wide, thanks to the Internet, as animal killers. What a joke to call Rockville an American City and then find out they shoot and kill wildlife.</p> <p>Shame on you for even thinking this is an alternative. Makes me wonder what other atrocities my elected officials are capable of doing.</p>	Rockville, MD
CSR	<p>As a resident of Rockville, I would prefer that you use non-lethal methods to manage the White-Tailed Deer population on public property, as opposed to hunting them.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration of my request!</p> <p>I strongly oppose the proposal to set up special feeding zones to attract deer where they will be shot and urge the Mayor and council to use non-lethal means to control the deer population.</p> <p>Rockville is a forward-thinking, kind community which should set an example by employing modern technology to avoid the needless slaughter of these beautiful and gentle animals.</p>	Rockville, MD
CSR	<p>AS A ROCKVILLE RESIDENT PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE CITY CODE TO PERMIT HUNTING WITH FIREARMS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY. CONTINUE TO USE HUMANE EFFORTS TO CONTROL DEER AS THE NEED ARISES. We live in the area that backs to public parklands, on Overlea Drive and there are children that explore these woods, including our 7 grandchildren!!!!</p>	Rockville, MD
CSR	<p>The deer population tends to rise in concentrated areas due to gardening practices, construction, and an absence of natural predators. Human factors that can be altered must be given attention, or the calls of "too many deer" and the pressure to destroy them when they are deemed inconvenient will be cyclical.</p> <p>Friends of Animals rejects all components of the Draft Plan which seek to eliminate, destroy, alter or exploit deer. Local, state, and national decision-</p>	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>makers should make decisions that genuinely respect the autonomy and dignity of the deer, and the health of the ecology.</p> <p>The solution? Let's enact a campaign that educates the public about the wonder of living alongside the animals humans continue to co-evolve with. Treating other animals as targets for killing shows both a lack of humanity and creativity.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>Please keep the protection of Rockville's people - not the animals - as your top priority.</p> <p>In recent years, authorities had to kill a deer that was down in our yard with illness or injury just feet from our kitchen door; a neighbor's child suffered Lyme disease; and we've taken pains to miss hitting deer wandering on College Parkway and Nelson Street _ and one that stepped at night onto the unlighted 270 ramp just as we were accelerating to merge onto the highway.</p> <p>This seems too much contact with wildlife in such an urbanized area .</p> <p>After a year of study already, you must have some idea of whether the deer population exceeds what's good for our residents and environment. We urge you to confirm whether that is the case _ in the quickest and most cost-effective way possible. And if it is the case, we urge you to eliminate the excess again, with the most expeditious and cost-effective method.</p> <p>We oppose further drawing out this issue in any way that unnecessarily burdens taxpayers in these already difficult economic times.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>Dear Mayor and Council and Task Force Members:</p> <p>Thank you for providing an opportunity for public comment on the seven recommendations recently made by the White-Tailed Deer Management Task Force (the "Task Force") for adoption by the Mayor and Council. I appreciate the effort put into these recommendations by the Task Force, and believe that the majority of the recommendations are worthy of adoption. Nevertheless, there are significant weaknesses in other proposals presented by the Task Force, and these will require significant modification by the Mayor and Council before adoption.</p> <p>Approve Recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. Of the seven recommendations made by the Task Force, five of them, namely recommendations 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7, should be implemented by the City without significant change. Recommendations 2 and 3 will allow the City may obtain objective information on the deer population, which can form the basis of a rational and acceptable deer control program. Recommendation 5, to amend City ordinances limiting the discharge of firearms, is a necessary component of any program that will include a controlled hunt, which is a critical part of a control program. Recommendation 6, relating to research to keep deer off roadways, is commendable, although I am skeptical of the efficacy of any such effort. Controlling the deer population is the most cost-effective means of preventing deer/automobile interactions. Finally, Recommendation 7, the public information campaign, will provide Rockville residents with the information needed to understand and implement a deer control program.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>Reject Recommendation 4. The Mayor and Council should reject Recommendation 4, which would modify City ordinances to allow backyard fence heights of 10 feet. The Task Force has provided no rationale or justification for this change, and experience has shown that the current eight foot limitation is sufficient to exclude deer. Although there do not appear to be any scientific studies in this area, the almost uniform recommendation of persons experienced in deer control is that an eight-foot barrier is sufficient to exclude white-tailed deer. See, for example, “Effective Deer Fences,” published by the University of Vermont Extension at www.uvm.edu/pss/ppp/articles/deerfences.html, and <i>Managing White-Tailed Deer in Suburban Environments</i>, Cornell Cooperative Extension (2000), p. 20. The City has already chosen to limit fence heights to eight feet in order to lessen the aesthetic burden on neighbors of the fence-owner. Increasing the permissible height to 10 feet will only create neighborhood eyesores with no additional protection against deer incursions.</p> <p>Reject Recommendation 1. The Mayor and Council should also reject Recommendation 1, that it adopt the White-Tailed Deer Management Plan (the “Plan”), unless the Plan is subject to substantial revision. The Plan suffers from two key weaknesses, both of which must be addressed before adoption. First, it inappropriately places primary responsibility for deer control upon the private property owner, rather than the City and the State of Maryland, where it belongs. And second, it would create an unwieldy, and ultimately unworkable, mechanism for implementing a deer management program. Most of these comments are devoted to those two issues, and they are referred to and discussed below as the “Responsibility Issues” and the “Procedure Issues.”</p> <p>Responsibility Issues. White-tailed deer, being wild animals, are the property of the State and subject to its control. That control can be shared with a municipal authority, such as the City. Private landowners, on the other hand, are constrained in the actions that they can take with respect to white-tailed deer, and are prohibited from hunting, injuring, or harassing them within City limits. Because the City and State have taken a hands-off policy toward the white-tailed deer, it is Rockville’s residents and landowners who have incurred the primary burden of the white tail deer overpopulation crisis. It is Rockville’s residents who have been subject to personal injury and property damage in deer/automobile collisions, increased risk of Lyme Disease, and damage to lawns, trees, shrubs, and gardens.</p> <p>The Plan will make no change in this shifting of the burden of deer control. Part IX of the Plan, “Procedures,” makes it clear that the property owner will have the initial and primary responsibility for controlling the incursion of deer onto his property. Under the heading “Deer Conflicts on Private Property,” the Plan states that, in the event of “impacts to private property, the property owner will be counseled to accommodate the deer and tolerate some inconvenience.” It goes on to state that residents will be required to “implement specified exclusion measures, where practical, before other actions will be considered.” These exclusion measures are further described in Part XI, “Management Techniques,” as: (1) deterrence (i.e., taste and odor repellants) and (2) fencing or physical exclusion.</p> <p>This demonstrates that the Plan would only continue current City policy, which is to place the burden of deer control upon the landowner. Because the Plan would not compel the City to take any action until the landowner has fenced his or her property, we can expect that the City’s neighborhoods will slowly grow a forest of eight foot (possibly 10 foot, if the ordinance is revised) fences around each individual lot to protect the homeowner’s property from deer incursions. This is not a workable solution to the problems that we face, will have no impact on the deer overpopulation, and will result in a considerable cost to landowners. The Plan should be rejected for this reason alone.</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>Procedure Issues. Part X of the Plan, “Procedures for Decision-Making,” and Part VI, “WTDTF Plan Recommendations,” describe the proposed process by which the 16-member Task Force and the City will identify deer management needs after the Plan is adopted. The Task Force will meet in February, March and April of each year to analyze the data gathered in the prior calendar year and to make recommendations for any changes in the management plan to the Mayor and Council. After approving (or modifying) those recommendations, the Mayor and Council will direct the Recreation and Parks staff to implement them. It is anticipated that this staff implementation would begin no earlier than June.</p> <p>A responsive and responsible deer management program requires a more nimble process than that described in the Plan. The Plan would require three levels of decision making before any change could be made in the deer management plan: (1) the Task Force would first study the previous year’s data and decide upon its recommendations; (2) the Mayor and Council would then study those recommendations in order to provide direction to City Staff; and (3) the Recreation and Parks staff would then decide how to implement the recommendations. The multiple layers of decision makers mean that it could take the City more than one year to respond to changes in the deer population, deer behavior, or incidence of disease. This is an unacceptable response time, given the serious nature of the problem.</p> <p>A simple example demonstrates the weaknesses of the proposed procedure: <i>Assume that the winter of 2011-2012 is exceptionally mild, causing a significant spike in the deer birth and winter survival rates, and results in a 30% increase in the City deer population by summer 2012. Because population data is collected only on an annual basis, the Task Force could not consider this population increase and its impacts until early 2013. The Mayor and Council would not receive the Task Force recommendations until April 2013 and the Parks and Recreation staff would be unable to implement the new guidelines until the latter half of 2013, more than a year after the event in question.</i></p> <p>Rockville deserves a better and simpler system for responding to the problem of the white-tailed deer. The Plan must be revised to: (1) reduce the size of the Task Force to less than 10 members, allowing it to act more quickly; (2) give the Mayor and Council veto power over Task Force recommendations, rather than requiring approval of the recommendations by Mayor and Council; and (3) give Parks and Recreation staff discretion to deviate from the then-current deer management plan (after notification to, and input from, the Task Force within specified time limits) to respond to changed circumstances.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Task Force is to be thanked for its effort in moving the City towards a realistic deer management plan after years of inaction. Many of its recommendations should be adopted, as they would further the goal of reducing deer/human conflicts. Nevertheless, the proposed Management Plan is seriously flawed, both in its assumptions as to who is responsible for deer control and in its procedures for implementing the City’s deer management plan. The Plan needs further work before it is approved by Mayor and Council.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted.</p>	
WTDTF	Please allow the managed deer hunt in Rockville to help control the deer population. It is more humane to hunt these beautiful creatures and use their meat (ideally to homeless shelters) than to watch them get killed by cars and see their meat get wasted. I have been a hunter since I was 12 and nothing makes me more sick than seeing a dead deer on the side of the road. Hunting the deer is the humane way to control the population - letting the deer get	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	brutally killed by cars is not.	
CSR	<p>I am firmly against killing deer to deal with population issues. I do not pay extra high taxes for the privilege to live in Rockville, MD and have my money used to hire people to kill animals. I will allow my tax dollars to be used for non-lethal ways to provide population control as so many other jurisdictions have smartly done.</p> <p>I live near an area populated by deer. We also have pets and human beings enjoying the outdoor areas. Guns can do terrible things to everything that may come near them.</p> <p>I do not want to live in a community known world-wide, thanks to the Internet, as animal killers. What a joke to call Rockville an American City and then find out they shoot and kill wildlife.</p> <p>Shame on you for even thinking this is an alternative. Makes me wonder what other atrocities my elected officials are capable of doing.</p>	Rockville, MD
CSR	I'm a long-time resident of Rockville and do NOT support the hunting of deer by firearm. I support investigation of humane alternatives. Thank you.	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>I am writing in support of the adoption of the revised White-Tailed Deer Management Plan. The deer population in Rockville is out of control. It's not a matter of a deer occasionally on my property but rather 3 -6 deer in my yard regularly. Deer droppings are all over my lawn. I live one block from City Hall close to Rockville Town Center.</p> <p>The Maryland Department of Natural Resources says that it's typical or reasonable to have 25 deer per square mile. But when the last census was done by an aerial survey more than a decade ago, the number in the Montgomery County area was more than four times that. The last census was done in 2002, and they estimated between 50 and 200 head of deer per square mile in Rockville. This is a problem we can't ignore. There is just too many deer. They're walking around on our streets. I even saw one crossing Maryland Avenue (in the crosswalk!) by City Hall. The deer are all over the place.</p> <p>When I was getting my motorcycle license, I asked a friend who worked for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue to tell me about the last accident he handled involving a motorcycle. I was surprised when he told me a deer had killed the rider. At that point, I had not considered the possibility. On one of my first rides a deer jumped out in front of me on Falls Road. Last year I arrived home on my motorcycle to find 6 deer in my driveway. If you look at the COG Photo of a deer collision on page 39 of the COG Report on Deer Collisions linked to the City's website, you will see a motorcycle down on the roadway along with the deer.</p> <p>As editor of <i>Rockville Central</i>, I wrote my first piece on the deer problem in 2007 because my friend was driving down West Montgomery Avenue and a deer slammed into his driver side door. After speaking with people and researching collisions, I realized this was a growing problem for Rockville. It's not okay that over 2,000 vehicles collide with deer in Montgomery County each year.</p>	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>Our deer problem is more than a nuisance and danger to motorists. They are destroying the habitat for all of us, all of our children, all of the other animals and all of the birds. The deer only eat the natural species of plants which are meant to grow in our area. They don't eat any of the invasive species. Therefore the invasive species flourish. The vines grow where natural species used to grow because the deer don't eat them and these vines are killing our trees. Deer are shifting our whole ecosystem here in Rockville. Their destruction of all the saplings and undergrowth means that Rockville will not have a forest in the future. This is a serious issue. Controlling and downsizing the deer population must be done.</p> <p>Montgomery and Howard County have deer management programs involving controlled hunts and Rockville needs to do our part. These deer management programs include managed hunts in a controlled environment with very strict rules. There are organizations which conduct these hunts on behalf of city and county governments. They do it in very restricted areas in a safe manner away from inhabited dwellings. With a series of notices and through careful guarding of areas, hunts can be made safe. They even do the cleanup.</p> <p>Therefore, I fully support the direct reduction method of hunting by professionals within the City limits.</p> <p>I also agree that the City should develop a database to track deer vehicle incidents and conduct flyovers using infrared technology to accurately portray the current white-tailed deer population in Rockville.</p> <p>Those opposing direct reduction methods offer no other viable solution to lower the deer population in such an urban area.</p> <p>Simply raising backyard fences pushes the deer problem onto your neighbors. If we all did it, the deer would still be on the sidewalks and streets. Changing the height of fences from 8 feet to 10 feet could help some homeowners, but it will not lower the deer population. In our neighborhood our children run from yard to yard and we actually share a backyard with another family. Forcing people to get fences cuts neighbors off from each other in order. Fencing around small yards is also an aesthetic problem. When all is said and done, fencing will not stop the actual overpopulation problem. Using traffic control devices related to deer crossings might help lower some accidents but it will also not solve the real problem either.</p> <p>Contraception is difficult with wild animals. Catching and sedating the deer to do a contraceptive procedure isn't feasible. Then when it's done, the doe will only be non-fertile for one year. It's impractical to do this every year given the number of deer. This may have worked on islands with a contained population, but it wouldn't work in Rockville. It also would be very costly.</p> <p>As for the opposition's argument that lead in bullets would poison the meat and make it not edible for people, this is ridiculous. People have been shooting deer and eating them for hundreds of years and the venison could be put to good use.</p> <p>Herd reduction is unquestionably effective in reducing DVCs if the deer population in a specific area is reduced by a substantial amount.</p> <p>COG Montgomery and Howard county wildlife management authorities have used sharpshooting to reduce locally abundant deer numbers, and have reported a marked reduction in DVC. The incidence of DVC decreased by 73% after managed deer hunts at three parks in Montgomery County where the local deer density was reduced.</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>Rockville needs to do what is necessary for the future of our natural habitat and for the safety of our residents and this means changing the law to allow managed deer hunts. If we don't, and someone dies in an accident especially on a motorcycle, we will have to hold those who did not vote for controlled hunts as being responsible.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>Dear Ms. Mayor, Council Members, and White-Tailed Deer Management Task Force Members,</p> <p>I'm a Rockville veterinarian, who has both clinical veterinary experience in private practice, as well as a public health background. Thank you for considering deer population/control issues in the City of Rockville. This is certainly an issue that can affect both animal and public health.</p> <p>I feel fortunate to live in such a wonderful city, which includes a city government that can serve as a gold standard for other government agencies. Having grown up in this area (my parents still speak of the times when Tuckerman Lane was a dirt road!), I'm very familiar with changes that have occurred, both positive and negative.</p> <p>Although I've been pleased with so many aspects regarding the environment and city in which we live, I've also been disappointed with some of the development practices that have occurred. For example, absolute clear-cutting of trees in extensive areas, such as that which occurred over a large amount of land located near the corner of Montrose Road and Seven Locks Road, was environmentally devastating in so many ways. I'm not opposed to development, but there are better ways to develop areas, such as leaving numerous existing trees and building homes, etc. within those areas. Of course, one very negative result of such clear-cutting is that deer are displaced and end up in areas that they wouldn't have otherwise.</p> <p>I believe there are many excellent suggestions included in the Task Force's draft plan. For example, education and enforcement regarding vehicular speeding can be very helpful. I know of two incidences myself where fawns were hit by cars that were traveling at inappropriate, excessive speeds this year. While there are many excellent suggestions in the draft plan that I believe will help address the deer population issue, lethal methods should not be among the "tools" used to address this issue, particularly since the problem is primarily the result of human actions.</p> <p>The most significant concern that I have is that the projectile hunting methods described are inhumane. Even the best of "certified" hunters who attempt to target what are thought to be the "best" locations on a deer to cause the least amount of suffering as possible, routinely miss those locations, often resulting in wandering injured deer and extensive suffering. That said, even when those locations are directly hit, that method of killing is not humane. As a veterinarian, I think it's fair to say that those of you who have cats or dogs would not appreciate our shooting them as a means of euthanasia when that time unfortunately arrives and you bring your pet to the veterinarian – even if we had special "certifications" and used precise "point blank" target locations. Wouldn't you consider that practice to be inhumane? Deer are similar to dogs, cats, and humans from an anatomical and physiological perspective, and they suffer in the same manner. Thus, the argument is applicable to deer, as well as pets and people.</p> <p>While I do not think it acceptable to use lethal means for deer elimination, no matter what the means, if that were going to occur, it should be handled by dart sedation and humane euthanasia.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>I would like to thank the task force for their time and careful consideration of the issues in writing the draft recommendations. There are many non-lethal techniques that can be used to help control the deer population and decrease the public health impact. Incidentally, while I presume that it was discussed in Task Force meetings, I don't recall seeing a discussion regarding GonaCon™ vaccine, a relatively new birth control vaccine that was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), mentioned in the Task Force's draft. Data suggest that this vaccine can be effective for several years, and it offers many advantages over previously developed birth control measures. This USDA link includes information regarding the vaccine: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/research/reproductive_control/content/gonacon1rev_Updated%202008.pdf. Additionally, I'm attaching a recent article regarding the product.</p> <p>In summary, I want to thank all of you for working to mitigate deer population issues in the City of Rockville, but I urge you to eliminate lethal means among the options to accomplish it.</p>	
WTDTF	<p>I vote in favor of any method of culling deer as they have become an economic and safety problem. Safety in the context of auto collisions, some killing the occupants. Also the deer tick/Lyme disease carrier problem. Economic as they have destroyed \$100 of lilies in my yard by continuously eating the flowers and foliage. Also Hosta and pansies. They are in the process of destroying additional items as they expand their diet to new items. At my garden, fencing tomatoes steers them to other crops, but that takes time and money for fence. Safe methods are use of sharpshooters at salt blocks in elevated stands; or bow hunters who classically wait and shoot from tree stands downward.</p> <p>We should get serious before a school bus wrecks and kills some kids.</p>	Rockville, MD
WTDTF	<p>Dear Mayor and Council and Members of the Task Force:</p> <p>We want to commend the Deer Task Force for its thoughtful report and appropriate recommendations. We strongly support these recommendations.</p> <p>We support the recommendations because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current circumstances of the deer population is inhumane. The deer community is overpopulated with no natural predators to keep the population in balance. An indication of how desperately hungry they become is that they are eating plants that are not a normal part of their diet. Leaving them in this situation is not acceptable or humane. 2. The deer population is defoliating forest areas and destroying the natural habitat of other indigenous plants and animals. They are creating a destructive imbalance in the environment. 	Rockville, MD

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>3. The intrusion of deer into populated areas creates a public health problem, particularly with regard to the spread of Lyme disease. The proliferation of deer crossing streets is also creating a safety hazard as autos and deer collide, sometimes with serious injuries to the people in the cars as well as property damage to the cars.</p> <p>4. For many home owners the deer are diminishing or destroying gardens and landscaping. This is not just a matter of aesthetics or money, but it also creates more serious issues related to erosion.</p> <p>For all the reasons above we urge the Mayor and Council to act positively on the recommendations of the Task Force</p> <p>Thank you for your fine work.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>I would like to thank the Mayor and Council for recognizing the negative impacts the increased population of white tailed deer has had on the local environment and the personal health of the citizens of Rockville. I would also like to thank the members of the task for their efforts.</p> <p>A major oversight in the report and recommendations is the acknowledgement of the relationship of deer population and Lyme disease as part of the decision criteria for actions. In the report – page 5 there is a misstatement</p> <p>“However, given the numerous negative impacts associated with high deer densities, deer populations must be controlled whether there is a direct relationship between deer and Lyme disease ...”.</p> <p>There is a direct relationship between presence of white tailed deer and Lyme disease as is noted in the sited research of Ostfeld. No deer, no Lyme disease; very few deer, very little Lyme disease. I believe Ostfeld’s argument is that once past a certain level of deer population, the increased risk of exposure to Lyme disease is more related to other required vectors of the disease (mice and chipmunks) than to increasing populations of the deer.</p> <p>There should be a recommendation to monitor the incidents of Lyme disease within the city and if areas are experiencing cases of Lyme disease beyond a threshold, steps should be taken to reduce the vectors of the disease, including reducing the deer population to below the levels cited in Ostfeld’s work. Furthermore the natural areas which would hold potentially high exposure risk to citizens, such as the parks and nature centers, should be monitored for infected tick levels and have a similar reduction program in place.</p> <p>As far as disease prevention and environmental impact, deer seem to be getting special treatment compared to other wildlife. For example, if I had secured my trash cans, but raccoons were still getting into the bins, I could call for a trap and removal of the raccoons. If deer are destroying even the “deer aren’t supposed to eat this” landscaping in front of my property, I’m supposed to ...be tolerant of Bambi? If I see a raccoon or fox with signs of rabies, the animal will be removed. If a deer infested with Lyme disease infected ticks is in my backyard or park, it is my responsibility</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>to make sure my children and I are safe. Reread the recommendations, substituting the word foxes for deer and rabies for the impact and see if the recommendations sound like good public policy. If that sounds a bit silly, what is the incidence of people infected with Lyme disease in Rockville compared to the incidence of people with rabies?</p> <p>The recommendations for determining the appropriate density of deer populations should also be the health of the deer population. If there is disease, or the population is in poor health because of lack of food, then that should also be a trigger to reduce the population.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these comments.</p>	
<p>WTDTF</p>	<p>My name is Charles Phipps. I live at 131 South Van Buren Street in Rockville. I have lived here for about 16 years. My wife, who turned 60 in July, grew up in this house.</p> <p>Again, yesterday, there were 6 deer in our rear yard...eating the plants what we bought and planted...defecating everywhere. For the past several years, deer have been in this yard every day. I find that to be entirely unacceptable...considering that I live in an incorporated city, not in rural Montgomery County.</p> <p>My lot is about .77 acres, most of which is in their rear of the house. Fencing this lot to keep the deer at bay is prohibitively costly. We are both retired and simply cannot afford it. What's more, a fence is unnecessary if the City takes action to control the deer population. It is unreasonable for the city to presume that its residents, whom it already taxes inordinately, should bear the cost of controlling the deer herds. In addition, even if every homeowner on South Van Buren fenced his or her yard, that would simply redirect the deer to another property. The only solution is for the city to eliminate the deer.</p> <p>In addition, this past Saturday, at a 'block party', I learned that one of our neighbors suffered from Lime's Disease. That disease is transmitted by deer ticks. Deer ticks are brought to us only by deer...like the six that were in our yard yesterday. If the city does not act, there will certainly be more unnecessary cases of Limes Disease in this neighborhood.</p> <p>I expect the city to act to resolve this problem. I also expect an meaningful response to this email.</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>
<p>CSR</p>	<p>Dear Mayor Marcuccio and the City Council,</p> <p>I am certain that all of the residents in the Hungerford neighborhood are bothered by the deer, whose presence has increased significantly this year.</p> <p>In the last several weeks there has been a steady increase in deer activity on the Bowie Road cul de sac, and in our yards. I see, and chase them away both morning and night. They eat plants throughout the yard, and now, they are so bold as to eat the plants on the carport. The deer stand and stare at me, they butt heads and antlers with one another, they</p>	<p>Rockville, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>settle down on the ground. . . . Clearly, we are over run! I stomp my feet and clap and yell at them - eventually they jump over the fence into my neighbor's yard - only to return later in the evening.</p> <p>This spring I was treated for Lyme Disease - with the increase of activity and presence in my yard - daily, morning and evening - I am concerned that others in the neighborhood may have suffered from this disease also. Is the City of Rockville tracking the spread of Lyme Disease? Is Montgomery County?</p> <p>Does the City of Rockville have a plan for dealing with the deer?</p> <hr/> <p>Dear Steve,</p> <p>Your name was given to me by Linda Moran, Assistant to the City Manager, in response to my letter to the Mayor and City Council about the deer problem in my neighborhood.</p> <p>I live at 833 Bowie Road in the Hungerford Neighborhood. The deer have been a constant problem since the spring, with their presence in my yard increasing at a steady rate. Last week I was awakened at about 4:00 a.m. with unusual sounds coming from the back yard. Two or three deer were there, butting heads - antler to antler. I went outside, stomping my feet and yelling. It is clear that they are in the yard daily. On Sunday I picked up piles of scat (both male and female varieties) scattered throughout the back yard. Sections of my garden had been damaged by their rutting play. Of course, hosta, sedum, iris leaves, asters, euphorbia (they found this last week), begonias growing in pots on the carport . . . all have been eaten completely or sampled. I have seen, and chased away the deer in the early morning and after dark. They jump into my neighbor's yard, only to return.</p> <p>Last night I spent some time researching deterrents, although I have used pellets that smell of peppermint, and tried planting deer resistant plants. Does coyote urine really work? Unfortunately, the stink will also repel humans. Should I fence part of the back yard that is taller than the chain link already in place? What about containers that have dried blood? I understand that staking these here and there lasts for a while. Last night, after raking a bit and picking up more scat, in desperation, I sprinkled lavender essential oil here and there - of course, again I heard the sound of deer and at about 3:00 a.m. awakened, opened the back door, and saw and heard one deer go into the ivy and over the fence.</p> <p>I, and my neighbors, could certainly use some help with this serious and increasing problem.</p> <p>Dear Linda,</p> <p>Thank you for your letter.</p> <p>To be honest, it seems that waiting until winter of 2011 is a rather long time to sit quietly for the White Tailed Deer Task Force to submit their report with</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>recommendations on their findings.</p> <p>Something must be done for the health and safety of the citizens of Rockville before then. Last evening I could not help notice the irony of receiving the annual bill for licensing of my cat. She is about 16 (may have been 5 when I adopted her from the shelter). Cinders, the cat, has never been out of doors, however, she is registered and receives her various injections, checkups, etc. annually. This cat is monitored by the City. The deer are not.</p> <p>Thank you for the links to the Lyme disease information site, and for the link to Steve Mader. I copied you and the City Council in my note to him</p> <p>Thank you for your communications - they have been helpful to a certain degree. I expect that partial fencing of my backyard with 8 foot high fence will have to be the next step.</p> <p>Just so that you, the Mayor and Council have a sense of the problem, I thought you should know that last night at around 8 p.m. I chased away one deer, that I noticed as I passed by the window.</p> <p>Again this morning, awakened at 5:30 by the now familiar sound of clicking antlers, I went to the door at the back of the house, turned on the light, and three deer turned to look at me. They bounded off when I opened the door.</p> <p>Perhaps it will be helpful to you to know the extent of the problem I and my neighbors are facing, as these deer may leave my yard, but only move on to my neighbors.</p> <p>I am looking forward with great anticipation to the Task Force Report scheduled to be presented in December.</p> <p>I am not sure who is the best person for contacting the White Tailed Deer Task Force. Please let me know, as I feel it is important for the task force to know the frequency of deer in our yards in the Hungerford neighborhood.</p> <p>I was away Friday evening. However, upon my return last night (Saturday) at about 10:30 p.m. I chased a deer from my back yard. This morning at 3:30 a.m. I heard the now familiar sound of antlers knocking against one another. Out of bed, to the door at the back, turned the lights on, and found two rambunctious deer wrestling back and forth. My opening the door and stepping outside was enough to send them over the old chain link fence into my neighbor's yard. Before falling back asleep, I could hear the same sound, only more distant - at least not right outside my bedroom window.</p> <p>Today I drove through some neighborhoods to look at fences - Montrose Road to the west of 270, and off of Falls Road, then circling round to New Mark Commons and eventually home. I discovered that tall fences, old and new, are popping up all over, generally in the sides and backs of yards. I had</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>not noticed before that there is a maze of fencing, which probably contributes to the forcing of the deer into unfenced and low-fenced yards. I have scheduled a meeting with a fence company for later this week - I, too, will add to this maze. However, the deer problem remains, as they are forced onto roads, traffic islands, parks, and school grounds. We can each surround ourselves to protect our homes and gardens, but the city must address this problem.</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
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Letter to M&C

Rockville

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
2011 SEP -7 PM 5:05

7 Columbia Court
Rockville, MD 20850
September 4, 2011

Mayor and Council of Rockville
City Hall
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Routed To:
 Council
 City Clerk
 City Manager
 City Attorney
 Council Support Specialist
 Other

Dear Mayor Maruccio and Council Members:

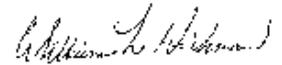
Back in the early 1980's, when the citizens of College Gardens, Woodley Gardens, and Pymouth Woods were up in arms about the possible development of the property which has now become half of the Upper Warts Branch Forest Preserve, I was the President of the College Gardens Civic Association. I remember that struggle very well since I led the effort, and I recall that the citizens' vision was not only of a forest preserve, but of a wildlife refuge. Thanks to the work of Doug Duncan and Bill Hannah, the property in question was ultimately conveyed from the County to the City in a land swap and so today we have the intact full forest preserve as city property.

But the wildlife is not so safe. There is discussion about the City coming in and slaughtering the deer. I find that deeply disturbing and unnecessary. Now that my wife and I are in our senior years and are spending more time at home, we enjoy seeing the deer on a daily basis. They are not aggressive creatures, and they aren't harming anyone. They appear to be perfectly healthy.

In the 2010 White Tail Deer Presentation materials which accompanied the Rockville Deer Task Force report, there is an indication that the number of deer-auto accidents is declining, at least from 2008 to 2009 when it was last recorded. Also, of the five areas within Rockville for which the deer population was measured, the College Parkway area had the fewest number of deer per square mile. This is certainly another reason why the Upper Warts Branch Forest Preserve should not be targeted for a deer hunt.

I really hope you will think long and hard about whether it's possible to live peacefully with the deer before you take steps to authorize some kind of move to start killing them. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



William L. Hickman

68

Source

Comments

Location

Letter

Rockville

1 RUTH DUNNAN 501 York Avenue in Timbuktu.
 1055 Greenway Ave
 Rockville, Md 20851 Call 301 530 3791...

I saw the deer around Timbuktu forest
 Neighborhood. We built the rock wall path
 and it would mean and it is to see the deer
 they don't hurt anything they have families
 and babies they look nice.

My friend was speaking and talking
 on the cell phone see usual and she
 killed a deer for lettuce for garden.
 She should be the one feeling guilty for
 hurting that animal.

A few years ago there were lots of friendly
 deer in our woods, then you had a kill. I
 know this summer I only saw a few
 Please don't hurt any more deer!!

I volunteer at the Fore. restoration area and
 the into going I volunteer to see. I have
 tennis, training and tournaments
 I coach Rockville High School University Orga-
 nization

Jarvis D. Dunham

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	<p>The Deer Task Force Report is to be commended on its report for several reasons not the least of which is that there is are strong recommendations about the use of data to guide their recommendations. Specifically, the following two items are included in the report: The task force will evaluate local and State of Maryland data on deer populations, and determine what further research or data is needed to assess current conditions in Rockville. If further data is needed, the task force will establish the type of data needed and its collection process and incorporate the data into their analysis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The task force will analyze all impacts associated with deer population and determine if any actions or new management practices are warranted. If new management practices are determined to be warranted, the task force will study and develop recommendations to implement proven, local control and management methods and measures ("Best Management Practices"). 2. The task force will analyze all impacts associated with deer population and determine if any actions or new management practices are warranted. If new management practices are determined to be warranted, the task force will study and develop recommendations to implement proven, local control and management methods and measures ("Best Management Practices"). <p>While the expertise of the members of the task force is diverse and impressive, it does not appear that there is anyone with specific expertise in program evaluation (particularly studies aimed at assessing the impact of interventions) and/or the analysis of data of the sort that is planned or that may be generated by the task force. This expertise along with that already on the task force in wildlife management would ensure that requests for other data/information as well as recommendations from the task force are meaningful and justified.</p> <p>One specific area not mentioned in the report that should be included in the considerations of the task force and the City Council is the effect or removing natural habitat of deer within the city limits of Rockville (i.e., wooded land) on the deer population as well as the 'pest factor' of deer. While there is little that can be done to restore the wooded land already taken away, it is still possible to prevent future destruction of this resource.</p>	Rockville
CSR	<p>Honorable Mayor and Council, I urge to employ non-lethal methods for any deer control actions at parks. The greatest problem is motorist speeding in zone where such actions are a hazard to both humans and animals. It is a great joy for me and my family to vie these beautiful and gentle animals. They deserve to live. Thank you for your compassion.</p>	Silver Spring, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	<p>Wife and I recommend: Neuter males and/or kill deer or if animal lovers are against above, herd them together and load on a truck and take them to a national park where they have a shortage or have bears or lions that can control their number by nature... we have been suffering attacks since 1997--we are gardeners and have had to drive to Frederick to buy 10ft poles and put wire around our garden--guess what the deer easily jumped over it and helped themselves to our veggies...this is probably the last year for our garden.</p>	Gaithersburg, MD (Montgomery County)

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	I understand the concern regarding the deer population overgrowth in Rockville; however this is a problem created by overdevelopment of HUMAN structures leading to a decreased space for deer to live. Therefore it is not the deer's fault they are being squeezed out of their grazing areas and they should not be put to death for a problem created by human consumption of natural resources and greed. The best solution to deer overgrowth is to relocate them to a less populated area or live with them. Where I grew up in Alaska we chose to live with our wildlife and embrace their beauty. Yes we did have controlled hunts for sustenance purposes but not to just kill them because it was an INCONVIENCE! I say we allow a controlled hunt for hunter's who agree to assist with relocation of a specific number of deer through use of sedation bullets to allow for the controlled relocation of the deer to less populated areas in Montgomery Co.	Bethesda, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	I'm delighted to hear that we have a deer-management task force, and I urge you to institute strong controls against the surge in deer population. I have noticed two very troubling things. First, the size of the brood seems to be expanding--I have been seeing families with one adult and four young ones. And, even though the literature I have read says that deer wander around searching for food at dusk and dawn, I have seen them in my neighborhood (the Colesville section of Silver Spring) at all times of the day. They make me very nervous; I have no idea what they might do when in close encounter with a human being (sometimes with a dog, on a leash). They sure don't run away but rather it's like a face-off and I'm always afraid to go forward. From what I have read, the only way to actually control deer other than kill them (which seems an unlikely choice) is to use birth control measures on the females. That decision, although somewhat unwieldy in practice, seems workable and needs to be put in place unless there is a third viable choice. Thank you for your attention.	Colesville, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	I'm delighted to hear that we have a deer-management task force, and I urge you to institute strong controls against the surge in deer population. I have noticed two very troubling things. First, the size of the brood seems to be expanding--I have been seeing families with one adult and four young ones. And, even though the literature I have read says that deer wander around searching for food at dusk and dawn, I have seen them in my neighborhood (the Colesville section of Silver Spring) at all times of the day. They make me very nervous; I have no idea what they might do when in close encounter with a human being (sometimes with a dog, on a leash). They sure don't run away but rather it's like a face-off and I'm always afraid to go forward. From what I have read, the only way to actually control deer other than kill them (which seems an unlikely choice) is to use birth control measures on the females. That decision, although somewhat unwieldy in practice, seems workable and needs to be put in place unless there is a third viable choice. Thank you for your attention.	Silver Spring, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	I have read that two legislative matters are pending concerning deer control, and I would like to have you include my viewpoints. The zoning change to increase the permitted height of fences is not the best solution, as it imposes cost on property owners and it results in a less open landscape than would otherwise be, with a degradation of ambience in neighborhoods. Nevertheless, the height increase should be allowed, for individuals who wish to spend the money and conserve their plantings and avoid the potential for disease carried by deer. This should be permitted throughout the county, not just in Rockville. The deer have no controlling enemy in residential neighborhoods, except for automobile collisions which cause property damage and injury or even loss of life to humans. The deer population would not grow to the current extent under "natural" conditions, so the wildlife advocates' point of view is rejected as overly protective and abusive of residents and property owners. A controlled hunt in rural areas is reasonable, but more measures are	Bethesda, MD (Montgomery County)

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>needed. In Europe, deer are given contraceptive chemicals distributed in some effective way to reduce the population. It could be done here, as well. The cost of the program could be reduced by selling kits to property owners who agree to set the bait themselves in areas where they have observed the deer. I also recommend that a study be made of the social cost of deer protection. I predict that its conclusions would prove that in aggregate we pay as much or more through injury, property damage, and various intangibles related to the quality of life than the cost would be to control the deer population.</p>	
CSR	<p>This is directed to the Mayor and City Council members, and not simply to be forwarded to the task force please.</p> <p>I am urging you not go allow the deer hunt. I am asking that the non-lethal means of controlling deer recommended by the Task Force be used rather than the deer hunt. This is an unnecessary and heartbreaking solution that should not be used. There are superior methods - "deterrence" and "fencing/exclusion" were recommended in the Task Force report – and these should be the methods used.</p>	Olney, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	<p>I live on Bradley Boulevard near downtown Bethesda, a densely-populated area with heavy automobile traffic. Last winter I chased a regular herd of 7 deer at a time out of my back yard many times a week. I cannot plant anything because it is either eaten, trampled or rubbed to death. I am concerned about deer ticks and will not allow anyone to go in my back yard without full clothing and insect repellent. The deer roam at will. It requires a great deal of noise and commotion to get the herd to leave my yard. It is dangerous to drive in the evening anywhere in Montgomery County because of deer emerging onto the roads and causing traffic collisions. Please cull the deer significantly in Montgomery County.</p>	Bethesda, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	<p>TASKFORCE, I am writing to complain about the excessive deer population allowed to roam unthreatened throughout my neighborhood. I live at 5505 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda, MD 20814.</p> <p>My complaints start with the infection of my daughter with Lyme's Disease. I am convinced her contact with deer ticks occurred under my watch in my very own back yard. The DNR officials I have contacted said there is nothing I can do to reduce this threat without violating the law. They were very clear that anything I did other than buying useless chemical deterrents was illegal.</p> <p>My complaints should end on the defoliation caused by this uncontrolled deer population. But, the uncontrolled deer population eliminates waste that has to be affecting the groundwater runoff.</p> <p>I consider the protection afforded these yard pests by the Maryland DNR excessive and shortsighted. I would gladly open my deck to skilled archers and would gladly canvass for support of my neighbors.</p> <p>Isn't this one of the reasons Robin Hood went outlaw. The people should be allowed to hunt the "King's" deer. I think the DNR should actively pursue a</p>	Bethesda, MD (Montgomery County)

Source	Comments	Location
	controlled hunt program rather than an uncontrolled protection racket.	
WTDTF	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>In my opinion there is a much bigger issue concerning the large population of deer in suburbia which is often overlooked in the discussion. That is the prevalence of Lyme disease carried by the deer tick, the deer being one component of the cycle. The number of people that have been diagnosed and undiagnosed with Lyme disease in my opinion is phenomenal. In my neighborhood alone (I live in Cloverly) there are numerous cases. The health costs are extremely high. I ended up in the emergency room with fevers so high they thought I should have been dead. My son had Bell's Palsy as a result of being bitten. Several of my neighbors were misdiagnosed causing chronic illness. There are 10 to 15 deer in my yard every day. Bedding down at night. As much as I love wildlife they do not belong in suburbia in such great numbers and frankly I care for the well being of people more. Please let us control the increasing number which continues to have extremely detrimental effects on the health of our community. Thank you very much for your concern. Please let me know what I can do to help with this situation.</p>	Cheverly, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	As a Chevy Chase resident whose acre harbors a herd of at least six deer daily, and who can no longer have any flowers, bushes or shrubbery, I think it's time for the county to reduce the out-of-control deer population. At the expense of being politically incorrect, one way is to have county officers tranquilize the deer and remove them to up-county rural areas. The population is now so numerous in Chevy Chase that deer will begin to starve when everything in our yards is eaten or trampled. None of us want that to happen.	Chevy Chase, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	I'd like to add my voice to those asking for a managed hunt. Large numbers of deer live in my wooded half acre yard here in Garrett Park. It's not unusual for me, every day, to see twelve or more deer. I've tried hard to keep them in my back yard at least -- to keep them from wrecking my front yard too. But it's truly impossible. They are everywhere, every day. I find their numbers and their indifference to our presence rather threatening, so I'm not really using my back property very much. Which is to say that at least at this county location, the deer have won. Please help me and my neighbors by doing something about it.	Garrett Park, MD (Montgomery County)
WTDTF	<p>To the Deer Task Force:</p> <p>I hope someone with imagination will read this.</p> <p>When I was in New Zealand ten years ago I observed deer farming. Deer had been imported to the islands that never had them before and they began eating their way through the young plants of the forest. Someone had the bright idea to corral them and feed them, then sell venison. Then they could sharpshoot their way clear of any not fenced in.</p> <p>Is there some way this could satisfy deer-lovers and our desperate need to protect undergrowth, for we will soon have no replacements for our mature trees? It would at first entail a considerable "harvesting" of deer but the overwhelming current population could be gradually diminished, even though new replacements would eventually move in.</p>	Silver Spring, MD (Montgomery County)

Source	Comments	Location
	Placing this farm in the Agricultural Reserve seems an obvious use of farmland.	
WTDTF	<p>I live in Rockville and I'm appalled at the suggestion of the use of bows and arrows to "cull the herd of deer" in our area. I had to look twice at the article to make sure it was Rockville, MD, that was contemplating such a barbarous act against animals and not some backwoods red-necked good old boy country commissioners who get their thrills from bloodsports. Yes, the deer are plentiful but surely there are more humane ways to challenge the situation; birth control methods using their feed or transporting the animals to other locales?</p> <p>I have deer in my back woods and truthfully, I enjoy looking at them. I don't especially think that shrubs and bushes take precedence over living creatures; Azaleas and other plant life can surely be restocked and are certainly not comparable to inhumane killings.</p> <p>KILL is the first option is a terrible example for our children!</p>	<p>Montgomery County, MD</p> <p>Not Rockville Address</p>
WTDTF	<p>Although I am not a resident of Rockville city, I thought I would give you my experience. I live adjacent to Meadowside Nature Center which is a source of many deer. Each year the county conducts a managed hunt to control the population in the park area. It works! In the Spring there just a few deer wondering around the area. Unfortunately they proliferate and the numbers increase substantially by September. Now I love animals and I have planted deer resistant plants, so I have no "axe to grind" However, the hunt is the humane action. These deer that we see are starving. There are just too many and there is not enough food for them to sustain them throughout the winter....even with all the green plants we see out there. Their ribs show!! Sure we love to see Bambi, but not the starving Bambi. Do the humane thing and reduce the deer population.</p>	<p>Montgomery County, MD</p>
CSR	<p>I have lived in Montgomery County for over forty years. I strongly oppose the proposal to eliminate deer in our surroundings by the use of hunters. There are alternate solutions that do not include the decimation of innocent animals. The Humane society has other ways of controlling the deer population.</p>	<p>Montgomery County, MD</p>
CSR	<p>I have been a resident of Montgomery County for over 28 years. It saddens me when I see deer that have been killed on the side of the road. It disgusts and sickens me that there are people who actually support having a deer hunt in Rockville.</p> <p>I certainly hope our elected officials do not support the cowards and cold blooded murders who are trying to have the White Tailed Deer hunted in Rockville. It is because of our greed for money that we allowed builders to destroy our land and the home for deer and other wildlife.</p> <p>Do the right thing and save these sweet innocent animals.</p>	<p>Montgomery County, MD</p>
WTDTF	<p>My feeling about the deer population and the extreme measures to eliminate them including killing them hasn't changed in the 25 years since I've been in Maryland. We are creating the situation by increasing the construction and decreasing the trees and land that the deer have to feed and roam. We create the problem and then blame the deer and say, "There's too many! We have to kill them!" Why not stop the construction? Most in Montgomery County</p>	<p>Montgomery County, MD</p>

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>are tired of it anyway. We never wanted it. This was the suburb and now politicians want to turn it into a congested city! But that's a different topic. For the purposes of this discussion, I am opposed to killing the deer because politicians and big business are intent on using up every available space of green that is left in this area. I support humane ways of controlling the deer population. I support keeping green areas for them to roam free. I believe we should be working to protect whatever land is left in the county. Personally, I love seeing the deer on my streets. I am thrilled when they eat my plants. It is my part in protecting the animals. Seeing that they have enough to eat. They were here before us - before houses, people, vehicles and construction. We have an obligation to protect those that cannot protect themselves. We cannot be supremacists, hurting those that we deem less important.</p>	
WTDTF	I am a resident of Montgomery County and I just want to voice my support for nonlethal methods of coexistence with the deer population. Thank you.	Montgomery County, MD
WTDTF	<p>While we acknowledge the need to control the deer population, it would be unfortunate if deer were killed without making use of the venison. Is there a way they could be sent to meat processing and then offered to the public to buy at a reasonable price? In the alternative, we come from a state (South Dakota) where deer hunting is common and we know how to bleed and butcher a deer. Could those of us interested be invited to butcher a deer or two and take home the meat? In South Dakota they give people tickets you can buy for a small price, and they can either shoot the deer themselves (if they know how) or give their ticket to a hunter. Then the ticket owner gets to keep the venison or take it to a meat processing plant. A plan like this would create some revenues and good will for Rockville. At a time when people are concerned about obesity, it would be great to offer lean meat to the public at a reasonable price, and it is a lot less fatty than beef.</p>	Laurel, MD (State)
CSR	<p>Dear Mayor and Council members:</p> <p>I am writing to URGE you to reconsider the plan to kill off 'unwanted' deer in the city of Rockville and the surrounding counties. As a resident of Maryland, I take pride in our wonderful natural resources, our wildlife and quality of life. There is much argument about the killing of these deer, which includes, quite unfounded, that the deer population needs to be weeded out, and that there is some danger of 'deer attacks'. How utterly lame. The deer pose no threat. They will seek areas of dense woods and generally mind their own business when they come into contact with humans. They are not aggressive, nor a threat to our environment or any other species, including our own.</p> <p>It is time we act in a more ecological, environmental and humane way toward the other creatures upon this earth. If we are taking away the habitat of the deer, then it is us, not them who should curb how much land we destroy for the sake of development.</p> <p>Killing is NEVER the right thing to do. I have to wonder if all those in favor of killing deer for sport, and in this case, just because... have ever walked into a woods and actually watched deer in their habitat, and observed their magnificent grace. No one with a conscience would ever kill one of these marvelous animals for any reason. Yes, human beings can be that ignorant, and it is time we put a stop to senseless killing.</p> <p>Please protect the deer and stop the outrageous plan to destroy them. It is senseless, inhumane, and wrong.</p>	Aberdeen, MD (State)

Source	Comments	Location
	Thank you for listening.	
CSR	<p>I am writing to you today to urge you to abandon the idea of a "managed deer hunt" in Rockville. The deer population may have increased in the county, however, it is largely due to urban sprawl and humans developing their habitat. Because of this, it is not fair to slaughter innocent animals from falling victim to human overpopulation. The bigger issue is that deer hunting is not, by any means, a method of population control or conservation. Hunters only kill deer that will look good hanging over the fireplace, rather than kill the weak members of the herd. Additionally, bowhunting is very cruel and barbaric, sometimes taking the deer up to one week to bleed to death after getting struck. This can cause panic in the deer and become a safety hazard for the community. This is why I recommend letting nature take its course to restrict the deer herd, or, use human methods of contraceptive.</p> <p>Additionally, some may argue that an increase in vehicle accidents has been associated with the deer population. I cannot help but to recognize that deer vehicle accidents can also be attributed to speeding, impatient, and distracted drivers.</p> <p>Lastly, I strongly recommend adding some animal welfare professionals to this task force so that all views are represented prior to making a decision. For more information AGAINST deer hunting as a method of population control, please visit: http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/hunting.aspx</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>	Baltimore, MD (State)
WTDTF	<p>I support the change to allow lethal management. I am a charter member of the Howard County hunters who work in the program in our County. The program works.</p> <p>I've never let an arrow or bullet fly in the Howard County program that didn't result in a dead deer within 30 yards of where it was hit. That should do away with the erroneous notion that it 'often' takes deer 'hours' to die.</p> <p>You simply need experienced hunters that know exactly what they're doing.</p>	Howard County (State)
CSR	Dear Mayor and City Council, I oppose the continued attacks on our wildlife. It is sad that instead of protecting the deer from any hunters some cities seek revenues from "managed hunts". I am aware that the Task Force recommended "deterrence" and "fencing/ exclusion" in their report, these non-lethal means should be used instead of hunting. Please oppose this horrific blood sport and instead seek non-harmful ways to manage the deer population in Rockville. Thank you for your consideration.	New York (Country)
WTDTF	I am a wildlife Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Arlington, VA. I saw your article in the Examiner and have suggestions for you. 1.	Reston, VA

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>First of all, white-tailed deer are regulated/managed by the Maryland DNR so you should definitely seek their expertise. 2. Be careful about gimmick controls like ultrasound devices and chemical repellents. If deer are hungry or overabundant nothing will stop them. 3. You need an integrated program that includes Exclusion (fencing), habitat management (removing what is attracting them), and population control (hunting). 4. Some methods will be expensive and ineffective in the long run such as birth control and trapping/relocating. This year, I (a hunter and archer) applied to participate in the Fairfax County, VA Urban Archers Program. It is a very competitive and regulated program that has shown great effectiveness the past 2 years - so they are expanding it. I'd recommend you talk to the program manager. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife/archery/urban-archery-in-fairfaxcounty.htm Thanks for the opportunity to contribute to Montgomery county's deer health. Good Luck.</p>	(Country)
WTDTF	<p>I am a military member stationed at the Pentagon. I am also a bow hunter and would like to recommend an option for bow hunters to assist with the deer population. The problem is that I live in Virginia. Although I believe it would require Maryland legislative action, request consideration for reciprocal acknowledgement of Virginia and Maryland hunting licenses with a fee for urban hunting tags in Rockville. For example, if allowed to use my Virginia hunting license overall, I would be willing to pay up to \$50 to be given the privilege to hunt deer in Rockville. Also, the meat could be donated to Hunters for The Hungry to assist those in need. I would donate meat I could not use. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Virginia (Country)
AC	<p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, which is mere savagery concealed in socially-approved descriptions. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.</p>	Colorado (Country)
AC	<p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, which is mere savagery concealed in socially-approved descriptions. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.</p>	Pawpaw, MI (Country)
AC	<p>This letter is to protest the proposed deer hunt in Rockville. Your justifications or this - as though such a thing could be justified - are empty and without merit. It is impossible for me to even contemplate the desire to kill. If you take a moment to invite the thought, imagine the need, consider the implications, you cannot escape the inevitable conclusion of depravity that initiates the process. Despite your promotion of validations used to cultivate societal approval, your actuality is slaughter, the calculated hunt and subsequent kill. Your black and white diplomatic banalities cannot conceal the red of the blood, the immobilizing, excruciating pain, the struggle to escape, the agony of incapacity, the fear of death, the evisceration of life. Killing is inherently malicious, and sanctioning malice requires apathy towards brutality and a desire to create death. There is no deviation possible from this</p>	Raleigh, NC (Country)

Source	Comments	Location
	principle philosophy, and embedding viciousness in conciliatory verbiage and legalese only forgives words, not actions. When you approve hunting, you embrace malice and invite bloodshed into your communities. The images of people expressing joy and pride alongside intentionally killed beings is not only disturbing, it is also a facilitation of cruelty. You are not modeling your behavior after compassion and tolerance but demonstrating brutal death as an acceptable response to innocent life. Please stand up on your hind legs and invoke humanity and decency into this world. Leave off all hunting, now and forever.	
WTDTF	Please do not kill the deer relocate them if you have too!	Florida (Country)
CSR	<p>Television personality and animal rights activist Bob Barker has written the letter below and attached in response to a proposed ordinance to legalize deer hunt in Rockville.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bob Barker P.O. Box 57227, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413 818-784-0534</p> <hr/> <p>Dear Citizens of Rockville, Maryland:</p> <p>COME ON DOWN and tell your mayor and city council that you can learn to share your great city with the deer! I know that you can do it! But you must do it in writing by September 9. And you must be at the meeting for the decision on Oct. 24. I am begging you to make time to go.</p> <p>As you have no doubt heard, I am an animal lover. Perhaps you are not as aware that I believe in lawmakers who listen to the public.</p> <p>I have unfortunately recently discovered that my deer friends in your city may be killed. I find any method of killing deer to be inhumane, as much as I feel it is so totally useless. Almost everyone would agree that deer are not aggressive animals; but are instead extremely gentle. They avoid humans and pain while forming family bonds and friendships.</p> <p>I have found that the best way to satisfy most, if not all, citizens, is to bring the residents together to educate and assist those of you having the greatest conflict with the deer. Your city can educate you about many facts including that the deer do not cause Lyme Disease.</p> <p>Your city can learn and implement the many ways to keep deer off your roadways and how to avoid collisions.</p> <p>Your councilwoman expressed interest in donating the deer meat to the hungry and homeless. She was assured by your Task Force that this would happen. Yet deer shot full of lead are poisonous. Naturally, it is not inspected by the USDA. I am afraid this might be another fact you have not heard.</p>	California (Country)

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>It is fact that deer shot by arrows often linger for days in agony. Not fair for the deer who has been hit, not fair for the other deer who are witness to this; and not fair to the youngster who might encounter that deer while walking to school as I hear your Mayor Marcuccio has so wisely implied. And how incredibly horrifying would this be for your citizens who love the deer and have no problem living side by side with them in peace. Shouldn't their feelings be considered?</p> <p>These same citizens may have moved to your neighborhood because of the wildlife, including the deer. Imagine the grief that they and their children would go through if your deer were killed. And imagine how the deer would feel as they saw members of their family being gunned down after being baited. I would not want out-of-town killers to appear in Rockville, but they will if a hunt is approved.</p> <p>I am concerned that although you must submit your public comments by September 9, your Deer Task Force will be meeting for the foreseeable future. I also am concerned that although the final plan will not be presented and voted on until October 24; Rockville citizens will have no opportunity after that date to weigh in. It is hard to submit comments when details are left out. It is also concerning that 3 of your councilmen have already stated their desire for a deer hunt before even hearing the public's comments.</p> <p>Although there are many items listed in the Deer Task Force report for Rockville, only those of you who have attended the July 11 mayor and council meeting where the report was presented; or those of you who had the time to watch the meeting on video, are aware that alternatives were almost totally ignored, and all questions were about only a hunt.</p> <p>In short, we can match the "claims" of those who are pro-hunting. I urge the City and the Task Force in order to be fair to all citizens, to not change the meeting date again from October 24 so that all may participate with adequate notice. I also urge you to make your voice heard; be the voice of the voiceless and innocent deer before September 9. Then join with your mayor and support the humane leadership role she has so far taken by showing up at the October 24 meeting. I am counting on you and so are the deer.</p> <p>Please get the facts. I don't have space to list all scientific references here. But be assured, a hunt would not only be cruel, but would be even more horrific because it is unnecessary and useless.</p>	
WTDTF	Note: See attached letter from George Washington University Law School *	Washington, DC
WTDTF	<p>Really.</p> <p>Can't believe that you would resort to killing innocent deer who were probably here before you were here because of the population. How would you really like someone to decide that there are too many humans on earth so let's start killing them off. There has to be another way to control the deer population without resorting to such barbaric action. Please find another way.</p>	Washington, DC

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	<p>Note: See attached letter from Friends of Animals *</p> <p>The deer population tends to rise in concentrated areas due to gardening practices, construction, and an absence of natural predators. Human factors that can be altered must be given attention, or the calls of “too many deer” and the pressure to destroy them when they are deemed inconvenient will be cyclical.</p> <p>Friends of Animals rejects all components of the Draft Plan which seek to eliminate, destroy, alter or exploit deer. Local, state, and national decision-makers should make decisions that genuinely respect the autonomy and dignity of the deer, and the health of the ecology.</p> <p>The solution? Let’s enact a campaign that educates the public about the wonder of living alongside the animals humans continue to co-evolve with. Treating other animals as targets for killing shows both a lack of humanity and creativity.</p>	Washington, DC
WTDTF	<p>Note: See attached Comment Document from The Humane Society of the U.S. *</p>	Washington, DC
WTDTF	<p>Note: See attached letter from the Animal Welfare Institute *</p> <p>To Whom it May Concern,</p> <p>Please find attached comments prepared by the Animal Welfare Institute and Animal Legal Defense Fund and the Draft White-Tailed Deer Management Plan under consideration by the Rockville City Council. I apologize for the slight delay in submitting these comments but two previous attempts resulted in error messages that indicated that the message could not be delivered. This was due to my haste in typing in the email address resulting in an error that caused the bounce backs. Since I did endeavor to submit the comment letter before the deadline I do hope that this comment, which includes a substantive analysis of the entirety of the Draft Plan, will be fully considered by all relevant parties. I would also note that both AWI and ALDF have members who reside in Rockville, MD.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide substantive comments on the Draft Plan. AWI and ALDF support a number of elements/recommendations contained in the plan but oppose others. AWI and ALDF look forward to continuing their participation in the decision-making process.</p>	Washington, DC
AC	<p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them</p>	Belgium (Outside USA)

Source	Comments	Location
	only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, which is mere savagery concealed in socially-approved descriptions. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	
AC	I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. I will not discuss ecology, balance, religion, or conservation: these are your embellished dictates meant to promote acceptance and reason, but which are fundamentally immoral, excluding compassion and any regard towards animals who don't possess your capacity to observe or understand egotistical, specialist tendencies. The criminalization of these animals based on your biased perceptions is a perversion of reason and logic. All human and non-human animal life is tangibly sacred and worthy of freedom from exploitation and suffering. Your discussion to needlessly and viciously kill is a personification of malevolence, and I ask that you instead extend a compassionate and equal gesture to observe and accept life rather than viciously extinguish it. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	France (Outside USA)
AC	I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, which is mere savagery concealed in socially-approved descriptions. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	France (Outside USA)
AC	I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, which is mere savagery concealed in socially-approved descriptions. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	Italy (Outside USA)
AC	Hello.....I am writing today from Manitoba, Canada...and wish to strongly.... PROTEST.....the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Before it is TOO LATE for these lovely animals...	Manitoba, Canada (Outside USA)
AC	Con todo respeto , le ruego que no permita que se cace a los venados . Le suplico compasion para esos timidos y maravillosos animales . Ellos estan en la Naturaleza por que deben estar en la Naturaleza. Apelo a su sensibilidad , Señor . Gracias. Le saludo atentamente	Spain (Outside USA)

Source	Comments	Location
AC	I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Killing is inherently malicious, and sanctioning malice requires apathy towards brutality and a desire to create death. There is no deviation possible from this principle philosophy, and embedding viciousness in conciliatory verbiage and legalese only forgives words, not actions. When you approve hunting, you embrace malice and invite bloodshed into your communities. The images of people expressing joy and pride alongside intentionally killed beings is not only disturbing, it is also a facilitation of cruelty. You are not modeling your behavior after compassion and tolerance but demonstrating brutal death as an acceptable response to innocent life. I envision you, debating occasionally, championing your party, accepting concessions, gesticulating and arguing, your Robert's Rules a bible of procedure, the impropriety of sanctioned death hidden in cursory signatures representing the weapons that will cease the lives. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	Switzerland (Outside USA)
AC	I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Killing is inherently malicious, and sanctioning malice requires apathy towards brutality and a desire to create death. There is no deviation possible from this principle philosophy, and embedding viciousness in conciliatory verbiage and legalese only forgives words, not actions. When you approve hunting, you embrace malice and invite bloodshed into your communities. The images of people expressing joy and pride alongside intentionally killed beings is not only disturbing, it is also a facilitation of cruelty. You are not modeling your behavior after compassion and tolerance but demonstrating brutal death as an acceptable response to innocent life. I envision you, debating occasionally, championing your party, accepting concessions, gesticulating and arguing, your Robert's Rules a bible of procedure, the impropriety of sanctioned death hidden in cursory signatures representing the weapons that will cease the lives. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	Belgium (Outside USA)
AC	I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. It is impossible for me to even contemplate the desire to kill. If you take a moment to invite the thought, imagine the need, consider the implications, you cannot escape the inevitable conclusion of depravity that initiates the process. Despite your promotion of validations used to cultivate societal approval, your actuality is slaughter, the calculated hunt and subsequent kill. Your black and white diplomatic banalities cannot conceal the red of the blood, the immobilizing, excruciating pain, the struggle to escape, the agony of incapacity, the fear of death, the evisceration of life. You recoil at gruesome descriptions, your tedious proposals absent the illustrations of deathly consequences you so easily sign with impunity and indifference. Regardless of culturally accepted monikers of preservation and conservation, however, and despite appeals using biased and emotionally-charged rhetoric, the reality includes the deliberate and vicious killing of sentient non-human animals. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	France (Outside USA)
AC	I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Killing is inherently malicious, and sanctioning malice requires apathy towards brutality and a desire to create death. There is no deviation possible from this principle philosophy, and embedding viciousness in conciliatory verbiage and legalese only forgives words, not actions. When you approve hunting, you embrace malice and invite bloodshed into your communities. The images of people expressing joy and pride alongside intentionally killed beings is not only disturbing, it is also a facilitation of cruelty. You are not modeling your behavior after compassion and tolerance but demonstrating brutal death as an acceptable response to innocent life. I envision you, debating occasionally, championing your party, accepting concessions, gesticulating and arguing, your Robert's Rules a bible of procedure, the impropriety of sanctioned death	France (Outside USA)

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Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	To Whom It Concerns, I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. I will not discuss ecology, balance, religion, or conservation: these are your embellished dictates meant to promote acceptance and reason, but which are fundamentally immoral, excluding compassion and any regard towards animals who don't possess your capacity to observe or understand egotistical, speciesist tendencies. The criminalization of these animals based on your biased perceptions is a perversion of reason and logic. All human and non-human animal life is tangibly sacred and worthy of freedom from exploitation and suffering. Your discussion to needlessly and viciously kill is a personification of malevolence, and I ask that you instead extend a compassionate and equal gesture to observe and accept life rather than viciously extinguish it. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.	Turkey (Outside USA)
WTDTF	As a resident whose property and landscape plants are particularly attractive to the deer, I am favorably impressed by the task force's recommendations and urge their adoption. If there are reasoned objections to any of these recommendations, I should like to know of them so that I might have second thoughts.	Not Provided
WTDTF	Since hunting with firearms is illegal in the city limits of Rockville, I would recommend researching the feasibility of opening up areas where deer are congregated to bow hunters. Risk for impact to citizens is minimal if not nonexistent. Use the WSSC model for urban deer management. They have a registration process that includes an accuracy test for potential participants. Strategically place the hunters in the areas where deer are bedded and apply rules that make sense for that area. For example one hunter can only shoot in one particular area and the next hunter can only shoot in another particular area and so on. If the pocket of land isn't that dense then don't put many hunters in that area. Only enough that makes sense. Schedule two or three hunts in these areas and then gather metrics on how successful the operation is. The only real risk with this is after a deer is shot it can run a long distance before expiring. This could lead to a situation where the deer isn't recovered. One of the biggest reasons why many animals are not recovered after being shot is that all too often bow hunters take up the trail too soon, simply bumping the animal away, never to be found again. What you do following the shot can make or break a successful recovery. When mortality wounded 90% of deer will bed within 250 yards of the shot. If an animal dies beyond this, most likely some outside factor pushed the animal. To mitigate this risk it would be best practice not to push the deer. Waiting at least 4 hours before tracking begins will offer the best chance of recovering the deer.	Not Provided
WTDTF	Salt licks with contraceptives? I believe West Virginia has had good success with this method.	Not Provided
WTDTF	I am glad to see the article in the Gazette, and grateful to have a chance to voice an opinion. I am greatly concerned about the effect of deer overpopulation on the quality of the landscape, and the ability of the forested areas to regenerate. Browsing has stripped many areas of the next generation of trees. We are seeing all of the negative effects associated with overpopulation; on the deer herd itself, the landscape, and interactions with people. How best to control the deer numbers is an important question. A key aspect of the issue is that deer are a prey species. They fill a key ecological niche as a	Not Provided

Source	Comments	Location
	large herbivore, but also as food for other animals. I strongly urge that the task force choose to begin a program of managed deer hunts. Such programs have been shown to be effective and cost efficient again and again. It does not seem to me that starvation, disease, or being hit by cars are more humane than hunting as a way to reduce deer numbers. All of these alternatives are either more costly or more dangerous to county residents.	
WTDTF	Obviously the deer population is out of balance with no predators and suburban gardens supplementing their forest food. I have an autoimmune disease and do not want LYME DISEASE! Our garden and landscape vegetation is eaten every year despite deer repellent, fences, etc. Please allow experts to hunt in the early morning hours and donate the meat to a shelter.	Not Provided
WTDTF	It's comforting to know that someone is thinking of reducing the deer population. Considering the great damage to anything we try so hard to do to make our gardens look good, plus the ticks they spread around (lime disease has tripled) the loss of humane life in car accidents. Please DO reduce their number as much as you can. Thank you.	Not Provided
WTDTF	The deer population is out of control and deer often jump over the 8 foot fence in my backyard to eat out of my vegetable garden. I have seen more dead bodies of deer on highways and local roads than in the past and I feel that deer populations need to be controlled by a managed hunt. Reducing the deer population will increase the safety of motorists and give gardeners a bit of breathing room.	Not Provided
WTDTF	The idea of population control is a good one. Having the county shoot and kill to trim the population is an excellent way to solve the issue. However what to do with the dead deer? I suggest you guys set up a run a local store that sells the deer meat. 1) Its sustainable 2) It can be very cheap 3) Its great meat that can be made into a lot of very tasty items. Just need the right butcher to process it all. The novelty of it would be interesting to a lot of people. I would drive to get an inexpensive, organic, locally grown, deer filet. I think a lot of people would with the right marketing.	Not Provided
WTDTF	I heard the piece on WAMU this morning detailing the problem Rockville is having with the current overpopulation of White-Tailed Deer. As you can see from the video clip below, Mountain Lions are quite capable of dealing with deer. If you were to release a few dozen Mountain Lions (or other large carnivorous predators) in Rockville, it would probably resolve the problem satisfactorily in a very short period. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aehc-D71rWw Thank you for your consideration in the matter.	Not Provided
CSR	Please do not use sharpshooters to "control" the population of white tail deer. This will only accomplish a temporary reduction in animals as others will move in behind them. Please work with the animal groups who have offered their help to control the situation using non-violence. Peace is for all of God's creatures. You cannot arbitrarily choose to kill these animals while other peaceful solutions exist. You should open your mind to other alternatives and understand that as moral beings, we cannot opt for the easy solution of death. We are capable of so much more as a society. Prove yourself worthy of the public trust and respect and do the right thing. Could you support this approach while talking to your children's children? How do you explain death on purpose when the bible says though shall not kill?	Not Provided
CSR	Please stop this madness! There is no logical reason to even consider this deer hunt. The deer pose no threat and citizens enjoy having them in the	Not Provided

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>community. This is just an excuse for those who like killing to kill these beautiful, harmless, gentle and innocent creatures. Even if the deer did pose any kind of problem, there are humane and nonlethal ways of dealing with it. This is just another example of humans being destructive to the environment and all the creatures that inhabit this planet with us. There is no place for this sort of brutality in a modern society. Make a stand for a modern, evolved society and do what's right. Do not allow this cruel deer hunt!</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>	
WTDTF	<p>Hello and my comments are as follows yes if people want 10' fences let them build them. I read somewhere in the paper that there will be selected areas where deer will be given birth control at a cost to taxpayers of a thousand dollars a deer. That has got to be the stupidest plan I've ever heard! I say get out there and kill them. Donate the meat to homeless shelters or the poor. Or set up a place, time, and program where county residents can buy the meat. Venison sells for about \$14.95 a pound? Kill the deer and make enough money to pay the swat teams the overtime that it takes to thin the herds. Tell the animal defense league to go somewhere, sit down, and shut up! Thank you</p>	Not Provided
AC	<p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, which is mere savagery concealed in socially-approved descriptions. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.</p>	Not Provided
WTDTF	<p>Hello, I am writing this letter to ask you to please do not let this killing the beautiful deer start. I am so sick of all the different species of animals that the human being want to and are being killed. Why? It's as much their world as ours and nobody has the right to kill any animal. These deer are such sensitive gentle creatures and how anybody can even want to kill one is beyond me. Animals are entitled to live a life in peace where they are .the human being is the lowest form of life on this planet, all they want to kill for is sport and money. Disgraceful. The world needs to learn to respect the animal kingdom and protect not destroy.</p>	Not Provided
AC	<p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. I will not discuss ecology, balance, religion, or conservation: these are your embellished dictates meant to promote acceptance and reason, but which are fundamentally immoral, excluding compassion and any regard towards animals who don't possess your capacity to observe or understand egotistical, speciesist tendencies. The criminalization of these animals based on your biased perceptions is a perversion of reason and logic. All human and non-human animal life is tangibly sacred and worthy of freedom from exploitation and suffering. Your discussion to needlessly and viciously kill is a personification of malevolence, and I ask that you instead extend a compassionate and equal gesture to observe and accept life rather than viciously extinguish it. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.</p>	Not Provided

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AC	<p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, yet euphemistic descriptions meant to facilitate morality cannot disguise the fundamentally unethical parameters with which we surround ourselves to distinguish our dominance. As dangerous as racism and sexism, speciesism further divides the chasm between species, which desensitizes us to cruelty and inevitably leads to human inequality and injustice. This disregard of your most vulnerable group of beings is unacceptable, and until this barbarism is appropriately addressed including a mandatory ban of such, I will boycott. Indeed, allow me to emphasize that it would be financially detrimental for you to enable the harm done to these animals. I and others will collectively voice condemnation of you resulting in the sacrifice of vital tourism and commerce profits. Please act responsibly and with compassion and choose to protect, rather than sanction harm, to animals. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt. Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>I continues to disturb me when all the politicians continually go to the lethal method of dealing with all wildlife issues. By killing them, you are not going to get rid of the problem. As soon as the void occurs, it will be filled by more deer. If they don't have access to food, they will move to where there is food. Fencing and plants that the animals don't eat are better methods. Shooting weapons in and around dense housing always has the possibility of someone getting hurt and then followed by a law suit. I am not in favor of any kind of managed hunt.</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>To the Mayor and Council Members of Rockville, MD,</p> <p>I am the co-founder and president of the Institute for Humane Education, www.HumaneEducation.org, and it's come to my attention that Rockville is considering a deer hunt. I wanted to write to express my concern, specifically about the effect on children of a deer hunt. As a humane educator – someone who teaches about the interconnected issues of human rights, environmental preservation, and animal protection in an effort to provide students with the knowledge, tools, and motivation to be solutionaries for a better world – I believe that a deer hunt would represent not only a poor solution to the problem Rockville faces, but also be detrimental to youth.</p> <p>At a time when it's so important to foster reverence and compassion among children and to increase their “nature literacy,” a deer hunt has the potential to quash that empathy and appreciation and dull their creative and problem-solving capacities. We are capable of finding safer, more humane, more peaceful methods for addressing local challenges with wildlife, and if Rockville simply resorts to a hunt, the message that healthy, humane solutions are possible is lost. And because it is lost among youth who most need to cultivate these critical thinking skills for a changing world, there is the likelihood that many young people – especially the brightest and most creative – will lose a tremendous opportunity for innovation.</p> <p>Perhaps the students in Rockville schools could address the challenge of deer proliferation in Rockville, studying the issue and using it as a real-life example in their science, math, social studies, government, and language arts curricula. Inviting youth to first study and then come up with ideas for solving local wildlife challenges would be wonderful pedagogy and help Rockville set a precedent for engaging its young population in solutionary thinking. It would also prevent the dulling of young people's compassion and love for other species, a quality we should be nurturing at a time when</p>	Not Provided

Source	Comments	Location
WTDTF	<p>habitat is being destroyed, species are becoming extinct, and humanity is threatening the ecosystems upon which we all depend.</p> <p>Cull the deer. The overpopulation is destroying gardens and woods.</p>	Not Provided
AC	<p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Animals are inherently sentient and possess the capacity for thought and emotion, including contentment, loneliness, fear, and agony. All animals, human and non-human, experience the desire to live free from exploitation and suffering and fear the manifestation of death. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities, regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, which is mere savagery concealed in socially-approved descriptions. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt.</p>	Not Provided
WTDTF	<p>I am very concerned about the OVERPOPULATION of deer in our city and county. I've read many articles and comments by our citizens listing the detrimental and destructive behavior of these animals: traffic hazards, loss of gardens and landscape plants, stripping the woods of young saplings and general nuisance behavior. I am very surprised that no one has mentioned the fact that deer ticks feed on the white-tail deer and carry the terribly infectious and dangerous Lyme disease. So many in our community have been stricken with Lyme and suffer when not quickly diagnosed. This disease is on the rise. The deer tick can also carry co-infections to Lyme, just as difficult to treat and cure. The deer spread these dangerous ticks wherever they roam. When you are hiking, playing at a park with your children, sitting on the grass watching fireworks or soccer games, letting your dog play in the yard or romp in the woods, be aware that any of you could be bitten and infected. It is sad that we must resort to these measures, but the safety of our community is most important. Please endorse a managed deer hunt that will benefit us in so many ways, especially our health and our outdoor enjoyment.</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>How unfortunate that the go-to solution in these types of situations always seems to be to kill wildlife, ask questions later. There are many humane solutions to the problem, such as fencing, hazing, contraception, etc. I'm sure you can spend our tax dollars in a more encouraging way, rather than killing our wildlife. The Humane Society of the United States can help Rockville create a win/win for the local wildlife and people living in the community. I wonder . . . have you contacted them for help?</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>I am respectfully asking that you please end these killings and use more humane method.</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>To Mayor and City Council Members:</p> <p>I am writing to let you know that I am in favor of the deer and against the proposed hunts in Rockville. I fully support the "deterrence" and "fencing/exclusion" programs, which the Task Force recommended in their reports; these non-lethal means should be used instead of hunting.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>Hello. I would like to take a minute to express my opinion regarding Rockville's deer management plan. I am against hunting these deer if other means can</p>	Not Provided

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>be taken into consideration. I find it upsetting to think of these deer being killed just because there are too many of them. These deer are part of families just like we humans are. It is unsettling to think that a baby deer might lose his/her mother simply because there is an overpopulation of deer. I just know there has to be a better solution.</p> <p>Rockville's White-Tailed Deer Task Force has recommended deterrence and fencing/exclusion in their report. Seeing as these are non-lethal means, I greatly hope that they will come to be the decision for this management plan and that the idea of hunting will be tossed aside. Thank you for your time.</p>	
CSR	<p>The reason there are so many deer nowadays is that the sudden decline in numbers during hunting seasons stimulates breeding and results in more multiple births. As long as killing is regulated to a certain extent, the deer population will be replenished and even increased when does give birth in the spring. Game managers take advantage of this effect to satisfy their hunter clientele. Also, artificial feeding by humans should be discouraged. If there is not enough food, they will go elsewhere.</p> <p>There are repellants and an almost invisible netting that can substantially reduce the loss of gardeners' plants.</p> <p>Best wishes for a satisfactory solution to your problem!</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>I am concerned about the deer hunt in Rockville, Md. I don't think we should allow this happen since the deers have lives, senses and feelings, too. They are lovely and tame. We as human beings should not mistreat them just because of our own convenience. We can catch them and move them to other places e.g. national parks etc. Killing creatures is not the way to take care of animals. Thank you very much.</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>I understand the city of Rockville is accepting public comments regarding deer management in the community. I am writing in favor of humane and non-lethal methods which have been shown to be more effective, less costly and overall more palatable to the community. We just moved back to the DC Area and live right across from Rock Creek Park. We also are expecting twins soon and will be walking through that area with a baby stroller.</p> <p>Killing deer does not achieve desired results, and paradoxically results in increased deer numbers due to the deer's adaptive reproductive capability. For example, in January 2011, the city of Solon, Ohio reported that after spending more than a half million dollars from 2005 to 2008 on sharpshooters to reduce the deer population, the number of deer rebounded 54 percent within the following three years.</p> <p>Even in communities which have attempted to keep costs down by using the city police force to carry out the killing, costs still have run close to \$400 per deer with the inclusion of the often overlooked cost of additional security needed to sequester the area for sharpshooters and patrol for accidental incursion from the public while shooting is taking place.</p> <p>Bow hunting, often considered as a means to kill deer at lower cost, is also ineffective at reducing problems associated with deer. And it is an extremely</p>	Not Provided

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>cruel method, as most deer are not rendered immediately unconscious and death takes place over several minutes, at the very least, while they experience unfathomable pain and fear. Many are not killed by the arrow, and run off, wounded, only to die days later from infection.</p> <p>Rockville needs a deer management program, not a deer extermination program. The use of fertility control for free-roaming deer has been documented for at least the past two decades through the use of safe and effective immunocontraception. Appropriate road signage and fencing at key areas along roadways, plus the application of highly effective deer repellants applied to vegetation will be far more effective than killing deer.</p>	
CSR	<p>Listen to Bob Barker and get more educated about deer. What animal science classes have you taken? They have been hunted for years. DO YOU SEE LESS DEER? How about more speed cameras? If you are not speeding you are most likely not going to hit one. Why are the speed limits so high anyway? I thought we were supposed to be going Green!!! Pedestrians get hit all the time here also that's because Montgomery County have the worst drivers in the world!! You can also keep deer out of your yards and gardens. Just Google it. I live in Carroll county in the country and we don't have these problems. It's the people in the county that are so stupid. My next letter will be to a friend of mine who used to work for Montgomery County Ingrid Newkirk. Google her.</p>	Not Provided
WTDTF	<p>Bow hunting is the quietest and most cost effective way to reduce the population.</p> <p>Hunting from a tree stand will increase harvest and safety issues.</p>	Not Provided
WTDTF	<p>I understand the need to curtail the growth of the deer population. Why must there be violence and murder? Why not sterilization techniques? I am not an expert in deer overpopulation. I just don't believe killing is the answer; the deer will just continue to mate and the problem will continue.</p>	Not Provided
WTDTF	<p>Do not kill the deer. They have the right to live like you and I.</p>	Not Provided
WTDTF	<p>I support managing the deer population in Rockville. In particular I support the White-Tailed Deer Task Force Recommendations to the Mayor and Council dated March 2011 including the use of direct methods to reduce the deer population (recommendation #5) provided such methods are carried out in a safe, methodical, and cost-effective manner. I also support the use of fences (recommendation #4) and other recommendations, however it appears that recommendation #5 is the key step as it is likely the other recommendations alone or in combination (i.e. recommendation 1-4,6-7) would not adequately address the problem.</p> <p>The back yard of our home is wooded and we see deer on a weekly basis. Although we enjoy seeing the deer, the deer appear to be over-populated. I am concerned about the effects of over-population: deer collisions (with bicycles and cars), the loss of vegetation and plants (which has occurred extensively in our yard), and the spread of disease (Lyme disease and mange for example), etc.</p> <p>The problem of deer over-population is not unique to Rockville, Maryland. The use of known techniques, for example direct methods of reduction, to</p>	Not Provided

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>address such problem appears to be a reasonable solution. Although others argue against direct methods of reduction, I have not heard of any alternative methods that are feasible. Inactivity does not resolve the issue nor does it protect the citizens.</p> <p>The only arguments I have heard against methods to reduce the deer population are the Bob Barker type arguments that deer management is not humane, killing deer is useless, and that deer shot may linger for days. In my opinion such arguments are weak and illogical and appear to be supported by no facts. With respect to the assertion that killing deer is useless, saving a human life (for example, by preventing a fatal deer collision) in my opinion is not useless. One less case of Lyme disease being spread to a human, in my opinion, is not useless. Working to prevent deer collisions and the spread of disease is useful. Methods that ultimately lead to improved human safety are useful. Further, if the management is done properly it is unlikely that a shot deer will linger for days. I have seen a deer in my back yard on numerous occasions that appears to have only 3 usable legs, apparently due to a collision with a car. As deer over-population escalates there is less food leading to more starvation, less livable area leading to more collisions, and closer contact of the deer leading to the spread of diseases such as mange. It does not seem humane to allow this to occur. Inactivity will magnify the problem, not resolve the problem.</p> <p>I hope that the decision makers are not swayed by the vocal opinion of animal lovers. While I enjoy animals, the important issue to me is human safety. I hope that the decision makers make the best decision for the citizens of Rockville based on the facts, not unsubstantiated assertions. I believe that use of direct methods to reduce the deer population is the responsible thing to do.</p>	
WTDTF	<p>Dear Deer Task Force (bet you've never heard that one before!),</p> <p>I've read the Draft Plan and Recommendation to Mayor and Council. I would like to thank you for the thoroughness of your work, and I would like to express my support for the Recommendation to Mayor and Council, including those items that will require legislative action: a) increasing fence heights from 8 to 10 feet and b) direct reduction measures (i.e., hunting).</p>	Not Provided
WTDTF	We support the work of the Rockville White-Tailed Deer Task Force.	Not Provided
CSR	<p>Please Decide Upon Humane, Non-Lethal, Deer Management Method</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Not Provided
CSR	<p>I am writing in support of the adoption of the revised White-Tailed Deer Management Plan. The deer population in Rockville is out of control. It's not a matter of a deer occasionally on my property but rather 3 -6 deer in my yard regularly. Deer droppings are all over my lawn. I live one block from City Hall close to Rockville Town Center. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources says that it's typical or reasonable to have 25 deer per square mile. But when the last census was done by an aerial survey more than a decade ago, the number in the Montgomery County area was more than four times that. The last census was done in 2002, and they estimated between 50 and 200 head of deer per square mile in Rockville. This is a problem we can't ignore. There is just too many deer. They're walking around on our streets. I even saw one crossing Maryland Avenue (in the crosswalk!) by City Hall. The deer are all over the place. When I was getting my motorcycle license, I asked a friend who worked for Montgomery County Fire and Rescue to tell me about</p>	Not Provided

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>the last accident he handled involving a motorcycle. I was surprised when he told me a deer had killed the rider. At that point, I had not considered the possibility. On one of my first rides a deer jumped out in front of me on Falls Road. Last year I arrived home on my motorcycle to find 6 deer in my driveway. If you look at the COG Photo of a deer collision on page 39 of the COG Report on Deer Collisions linked to the City’s website, you will see a motorcycle down on the roadway along with the deer. As editor of <i>Rockville Central</i>, I wrote my first piece on the deer problem in 2007 because my friend was driving down West Montgomery Avenue and a deer slammed into his driver side door. After speaking with people and researching collisions, I realized this was a growing problem for Rockville. It’s not okay that over 2,000 vehicles collide with deer in Montgomery County each year. Our deer problem is more than a nuisance and danger to motorists. They are destroying the habitat for all of us, all of our children, all of the other animals and all of the birds. The deer only eat the natural species of plants which are meant to grow in our area. They don’t eat any of the invasive species. Therefore the invasive species flourish. The vines grow where natural species used to grow because the deer don’t eat them and these vines are killing our trees. Deer are shifting our whole ecosystem here in Rockville. Their destruction of all the saplings and undergrowth means that Rockville will not have a forest in the future. This is a serious issue. Controlling and downsizing the deer population must be done. Montgomery and Howard County have deer management programs involving controlled hunts and Rockville needs to do our part. These deer management programs include managed hunts in a controlled environment with very strict rules. There are organizations which conduct these hunts on behalf of city and county governments. They do it in very restricted areas in a safe manner away from inhabited dwellings. With a series of notices and through careful guarding of areas, hunts can be made safe. They even do the cleanup. Therefore, I fully support the direct reduction method of hunting by professionals within the City limits. I also agree that the City should develop a database to track deer vehicle incidents and conduct flyovers using infrared technology to accurately portray the current white-tailed deer population in Rockville. Those opposing direct reduction methods offer no other viable solution to lower the deer population in such an urban area.</p> <p>--Simply raising backyard fences pushes the deer problem onto your neighbors. If we all did it, the deer would still be on the sidewalks and streets. Changing the height of fences from 8 feet to 10 feet could help some homeowners, but it will not lower the deer population. In our neighborhood our children run from yard to yard and we actually share a backyard with another family. Forcing people to get fences cuts neighbors off from each other in order. Fencing around small yards is also an aesthetic problem. When all is said and done, fencing will not stop the actual overpopulation problem.</p> <p>--Using traffic control devices related to deer crossings might help lower some accidents but it will also not solve the real problem either.</p> <p>--Contraception is difficult with wild animals. Catching and sedating the deer to do a contraceptive procedure isn’t feasible. Then when it’s done, the doe will only be non-fertile for one year. It’s impractical to do this every year given the number of deer. This may have worked on islands with a contained population, but it wouldn’t work in Rockville. It also would be very costly.</p> <p>As for the opposition’s argument that lead in bullets would poison the meat and make it not edible for people, this is ridiculous. People have been shooting deer and eating them for hundreds of years and the venison could be put to good use. Herd reduction is unquestionably effective in reducing DVCs if the deer population in a specific area is reduced by a substantial amount. COG Montgomery and Howard county wildlife management authorities have used sharpshooting to reduce locally abundant deer numbers, and have reported a marked reduction in DVC. The incidence of DVC decreased by 73% after managed deer hunts at three parks in Montgomery County where the local deer density was reduced. Rockville needs to do what is necessary for the future of our natural habitat and for the safety of our residents and this means changing the law to allow managed deer hunts. If we don’t, and</p>	

Source	Comments	Location
	someone dies in an accident especially on a motorcycle, we will have to hold those who did not vote for controlled hunts as being responsible.	
CSR	I write in opposition to the prospective deer hunt in Rockville ad environments. Besides being inhumane this is ineffective.	Not Provided
CSR	We are opposed to the proposed deer hunt (using guns and bows and arrows) in Rockville. It is inhumane and unsafe, and better techniques of deer management are available that need to explored.	Not Provided
CSR	I strongly oppose the idea of hunting for deer in Rockville. I also strongly oppose the use of guns for this problem. YOU NEED TO THINK OF ANOTHER SOLUTION.	Not Provided
WTDTF	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing in opposition of the "Managed Hunt" in Rockville. This has been tried throughout the County and has not helped the deer population. Why repeat something that DOES NOT WORK other than give the good old boys a chance for target practice. Let's remember the deer were here long before we were - remember the Native American Indians, or eradicating coyotes and buffalo - we took their land etc. Yes, I am aware of Lyme & rabies disease - but this is medically treatable. Let's rethink other avenues before we resort again to the Wild, Wild West SHOOT OUT!</p>	Not Provided
M&C	<p>To Whom It Concerns,</p> <p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. Humans have adopted dangerous constructs of speciesism, the prejudicial regard of non-human species, to validate the brutality inflicted upon them. Using this manufactured status of superiority, humans have sanctioned the use of animals as commodities; regarding them only as products to benefit our goals and needs. We embrace inequity to justify our treatment of animals, yet euphemistic descriptions meant to facilitate morality cannot disguise the fundamentally unethical parameters with which we surround ourselves to distinguish our dominance. As dangerous as racism and sexism, speciesism further divides the chasm between species, which desensitizes us to cruelty and inevitably leads to human inequality and injustice. This disregard of your most vulnerable group of beings is unacceptable, and until this barbarism is appropriately addressed including a mandatory ban of such, I will boycott. Indeed, allow me to emphasize that it would be financially detrimental for you to enable the harm done to these animals. I and others will collectively voice condemnation of you resulting in the sacrifice of vital tourism and commerce profits. Please act responsibly and with compassion and choose to protect, rather than sanction harm, to animals. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt.</p>	Unknown
CS & Parks	<p>To Whom It Concerns,</p> <p>I am writing today to protest the suggested deer hunt in Rockville. It is impossible for me to even contemplate the desire to kill. If you take a moment to invite the thought, imagine the need, consider the implications, you cannot escape the inevitable conclusion of depravity that initiates the process. Despite</p>	Unknown

Source	Comments	Location
	<p>your promotion of validations used to cultivate special approval, your actuality is slaughter, the calculated hunt and subsequent kill. Your black and white diplomatic banalities cannot conceal the red of the blood, the immobilizing, excruciating pain, the struggle to escape, the agony of incapacity, the fear of death, the evisceration of life. You recoil at gruesome descriptions, your tedious proposals absent the illustrations of deathly consequences you so easily sign with impunity and indifference. Regardless of culturally accepted monikers of preservation and conservation, however, and despite appeals using biased and emotionally-charged rhetoric, the reality includes the deliberate and vicious killing of sentient non-human animals. Please reject cruelty and oppose the proposed deer hunt.</p> <p>Thank you for your time reading this urgent message.</p>	

Attachments

- * Letter from George Washington University Law School
- * Letter from the Humane Society of the United States
- * Letter from Animal Welfare Institute
- * Letter from Friends of Animals