



Council Member Report

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 1, 2019

To	Committee of the Whole	Date:	July 26, 2019
From	Councillor Thornton-Joe, Mayor Helps		
Subject	Regional Deer Management		

Background

Through the years we have received many complaints regarding deer. Some of the concerns have been regarding the eating of resident's flowers and vegetables, some have been concerns of ticks being carried by deer populations, some have been concerns of accidents caused by collisions with deer, and some have been due to safety of individuals and their pets when encountering deer in their neighbourhood.

Council's current direction is in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan under Strategic Objective #5, Health, Well-Being & a Welcoming City: *Look for Opportunities and Partnerships for Deer Management.*

In a meeting with other municipalities that have expressed the same concerns, it has been decided that a regional approach is the best when dealing with deer populations.

Whereas: Evidence has shown that culls and translocation have proven to be both inhumane and ineffective approaches to reducing deer numbers (the latter because the remaining population expands to fill the void),

Whereas: Immuno-contraception--the use of an animal's immune system to prevent it from fertilizing offspring. It involves the administration of a vaccine that induces an adaptive immune response which caused an animal to become infertile--as being piloted in Oak Bay, is showing promise as a humane and effective approach to managing and gradually reducing deer numbers,

Whereas: Deer management is most effective when undertaken on a regional basis (otherwise neighbouring deer populations will move in to fill newly-created voids),

And Whereas: The BC Government has jurisdiction for deer management and has only approved immuno-contraception in Oak Bay and only as part of a research project,

Therefore: The City of Victoria join other municipalities in the Region to sign a letter written to the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development asking to meet with the Minister at UBCM to discuss regional deer management and to request that we utilize a region-wide deer immuno-contraception strategy to manage and gradually reduce the deer population across or municipalities.

Recommendation

That the Mayor adds her signature along with other municipalities in the Region to a letter written to the Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development asking to meet with the Minister at UBCM to discuss regional deer management and to request that we utilize a region-wide deer immuno-contraception strategy to manage and gradually reduce the deer population across or municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlayne Thornton-Joe".

Councillor Thornton-Joe