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City of Las Cruces[®]
 PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 3 Ordinance/Resolution# 11-208

For Meeting of _____
 (Ordinance First Reading Date)

For Meeting of April 18, 2011
 (Adoption Date)

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT TERMINATION OF THE USE OF HIDDEN AND UNMARKED STRANGULATION SNARES, POISONS, STEEL-JAW AND ANY AND ALL BODY-GRIPPING ANIMAL TRAPS ON PUBLIC LANDS.

PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:

To support termination of the use of any and all steel-jaw and body-gripping animal traps on public lands.

COUNCIL DISTRICT:		
N/A		
<u>Drafter/Staff Contact:</u> Barbara Redshaw	<u>Department/Section:</u> Legal/City Attorney	<u>Phone:</u> 541-2128
<u>City Manager Signature:</u>		

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Commercial and recreational trapping of furbearing animals using hidden and unmarked strangulation snares, steel-jaw and other body-gripping animal traps is permitted on many of New Mexico's public lands, including in the Rio Grande, Mesilla Dam, Organ Mountains and other public lands.

Strangulation snares, steel-jaw and other body-gripping traps are not particular about the age, sex or species they capture, and their use on public lands may result in the unnecessary pain, suffering, maiming and killing of untold numbers of "non-target" animals, including domestic dogs, cats, rabbits, deer, songbirds, eagles, owls, hawks and all manner of threatened and endangered species.

Numerous people and organizations, including the American Veterinarian Association, the American Hospital Association, the World Veterinary Association, the National Animal Control Association, and Doña Ana County, New Mexico, have declared steel-jaw traps should be banned from use on public lands.

Trappers are not required to mark the location of their set traps near public recreation areas, including hiking trails and other public lands.

Persons have suffered injuries and companion animals have been injured, maimed and killed by hidden and unmarked steel-jaw traps on public lands in New Mexico.

Tourism to southern New Mexico is of major economic benefit and concern to the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County and their merchants and residents, and terminating the use of poisons, strangulation snares, steel-jaw and other body gripping animal traps on New Mexico's public lands will benefit the City and Doña Ana County by eliminating a practice that detracts from the tourist-friendly environment of the region, resulting in an even greater appreciation of the wondrous natural environment.

The use of all types of poisons on public lands in New Mexico is harmful to wildlife as well as domestic animals and their use causes unnecessary suffering and death to untold numbers of animals on public lands of New Mexico.

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

1. Resolution.
2. Attachment "1" – Councillor Gil Sorg's request that the City Council pass this resolution was made at the City Council Meeting held on March 4, 2011.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Is this action already budgeted? N/A	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	See fund summary below
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	If No, then check one below:
	<i>Budget Adjustment Attached</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expense reallocated from: _____
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from a new revenue source (i.e. grant; see details below)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed funding is from fund balance in the (<i># and Fund Name</i>) Fund.
Does this action create any revenue? N/A	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funds will be deposited into this fund: (<i>Fund #</i>) in the amount of \$ _____ for FY__.
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no new revenue generated by this action.

BUDGET NARRATIVE:

N/A

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

FUND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY:

Fund Name(s)	Account Number(s)	Expenditure Proposed	Available Budgeted Funds in Current FY	Remaining Funds	Purpose for Remaining Funds
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES:

1. Vote "Yes"; this will approve the Resolution as drafted.
2. Vote "No"; this will not approve the Resolution as drafted.
3. Vote to "Amend"; this could mean modifications would need to be done in order for the Resolution to carry.
4. Vote to "Table"; this could delay this Resolution.

REFERENCE INFORMATION:**N/A**

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

RESOLUTION NO. 11-208**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT TERMINATION OF THE USE OF HIDDEN AND UNMARKED STRANGULATION SNARES, POISONS, STEEL-JAW AND ANY AND ALL BODY-GRIPPING ANIMAL TRAPS ON PUBLIC LANDS.**

The City Council is informed that:

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Las Cruces, New Mexico, a municipal corporation, is tasked to represent and address the needs of its residents; and

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational trapping of furbearing animals using hidden and unmarked strangulation snares, steel-jaw and other body-gripping animal traps is permitted on many of New Mexico's public lands, including in the Rio Grande, Mesilla Dam, Organ Mountains and other public lands; and

WHEREAS, strangulation snares, steel-jaw and other body-gripping traps are not particular about the age, sex or species they capture, and their use on public lands may result in the unnecessary pain, suffering, maiming and killing of untold numbers of "non-target" animals, including domestic dogs, cats, rabbits, deer, songbirds, eagles, owls, hawks and all manner of threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, numerous people and organizations, including the American Veterinarian Association, the American Hospital Association, the World Veterinary Association, the National Animal Control Association, and Doña Ana County, New Mexico, have declared steel-jaw traps should be banned from use on public lands; and

WHEREAS, trappers are not required to mark the location of their set traps near public recreation areas, including hiking trails and other public lands; and

WHEREAS, persons have suffered injuries and companion animals have been injured, maimed and killed by hidden and unmarked steel-jaw traps on public lands in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, tourism to southern New Mexico is of major economic benefit and concern to the City of Las Cruces, Doña Ana County and their merchants and residents, and terminating the use of poisons, strangulation snares, steel-jaw and other body gripping animal traps on New Mexico's public lands will benefit the City and Doña Ana County by eliminating a practice that detracts from the tourist-friendly environment of the region, resulting in an even greater appreciation of the wondrous natural environment; and

WHEREAS, the use of all types of poisons on public lands in New Mexico is harmful to wildlife as well as domestic animals and their use causes unnecessary suffering and death to untold numbers of animals on public lands of New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LAS CRUCES:

(I)

THAT the City Council hereby supports the termination of the use of animal traps and poisoning on public lands in New Mexico through the use of steel-jaw traps as well as all types of poisons, kill-type traps, snare traps and any modified version of any such traps.

(II)

THAT City staff is hereby authorized to do all deeds necessary in the accomplishment of the hereinabove.

DONE AND APPROVED on this _____ day of _____, 2011.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

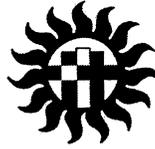
APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Interim City Attorney

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima:	_____
Councillor Silva:	_____
Councillor Connor:	_____
Councillor Pedroza:	_____
Councillor Small:	_____
Councillor Sorg:	_____
Councillor Thomas:	_____



City of Las Cruces®

City Council Meeting - March 4, 2011

Gil Sorg:

“I have been asked to ask for a consensus on a proposed resolution by the City that would ban the trapping of animals on public lands. Lots of times this trapping is very cruel – the cruelty to animal issue is there and also the fact that sometimes these traps don’t catch their targeted animal. A lot of traps that are out there are for coyotes, which is perfectly legal to do, but they don’t always catch just coyotes. They catch other animals too, domesticated animals as well as wild animals.

“I am just asking for a consensus to pass this resolution that both the Town of Mesilla and Doña Ana County have passed already. I am just asking that the City support this for trapping on public lands.”