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City of Las Cruces[®]
 PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Council Action and Executive Summary

Item # 5 Ordinance/Resolution# 14-131

For Meeting of _____
 (Ordinance First Reading Date)

For Meeting of February 18, 2014
 (Adoption Date)

Please check box that applies to this item:

QUASI JUDICIAL LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE

TITLE: A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE 2014 ANNUAL PREDATOR MASTERS HUNT AND CONVENTION OF FEBRUARY 6, 7 AND 8, 2014.

PURPOSE(S) OF ACTION:

To express opposition to animal killing contests.

COUNCIL DISTRICT: N/A		
Drafter/Staff Contact: Monica Campbell	Department/Section: Legal/City Attorney	Phone: 541-2128
City Manager Signature:		

BACKGROUND / KEY ISSUES / CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The City of Las Cruces ("the City") is a party to a Joint Powers Agreement which created the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley ("the Center"). The Center, through its Board of Directors, passed Resolution No. 2013-03 opposing the Predator Masters Hunt and Convention, in which the Las Cruces City Council ("Council") concurs.

The Center's work reflects an ethic shared by the Council and people within the Mesilla Valley and surrounding communities that strives to treat all creatures humanely and prevent the unnecessary suffering and death of animals to the greatest extent possible. The City and the Center strive to meet the highest standards of humane animal care and husbandry, and promote responsible pet ownership through public education and outreach.

The Council recognizes that coyotes are native to New Mexico and play an important role in maintaining the balance of natural ecosystems by controlling populations of prey species such as rabbits and mice. The Council also recognizes that scientific studies in Yellowstone National Park and elsewhere have shown that efforts to reduce coyote numbers in a given area by indiscriminately hunting or trapping them has the opposite effect, resulting in larger litter sizes and high rates of pup survival.

Predator Masters, a Utah based organization, promotes recreational killing and hunting of wild carnivores such as coyotes, bobcats and foxes. Predator Masters held its 2014 Annual Hunt and Convention in Las Cruces on February 6, 7, and 8, 2014.

(Continue on additional sheets as required)

Based on the accounts of past hunts, participants may call and may shoot many coyotes while they are in the area, leaving the carcasses behind without utilizing the pelt, meat or any other part of the animal.

The use of public lands in Dona Ana County near Las Cruces that are also enjoyed by many people for hiking, horseback riding, dog walking, bird watching, hunting, and other outdoor activities possibly posed a threat to the safety and well-being of the City's residents and their animals. The discarding of dead coyotes on public lands as a result of this event could constitute a nuisance and potential health hazard and may be in violation of Dona Ana County law/policy.

The indiscriminate killing of coyotes, while legal in New Mexico, does not serve any legitimate wildlife management purpose. The Predator Masters event appears to encourage the wanton taking of life by its attendees that is contrary to the ethic adhered to by the Center and the Council that both strive to treat all creatures humanely and prevent the unnecessary suffering and death of animals to the greatest extent possible.

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

1. Resolution.

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 _____ Fund.
Does this action create any revenue? N/A	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Funds will be deposited into this fund: _____ in the amount of \$ _____ for FY__.
	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is no new revenue generated by this action.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

N/A

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 express the Council's concurrence in the opposition of the Board of Directors of the Animal Service Center of the Mesilla Valley to animal killing contests that may be held at events such as the 2014 Annual Predator Masters Hunt and Convention held on February 6, 7 and 8, 2014.
2. Vote "No"; this will indicate no concurrence with the Board of Directors of the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley.
3. Vote to "Amend"; this could include amendments to the resolution.
4. Vote to "Table"; this could include further direction to staff.

REFERENCE INFORMATION:

The resolution(s) and/or ordinance(s) listed below are only for reference and are not included as attachments or exhibits.

N/A

RESOLUTION NO. 14-131**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE 2014 ANNUAL PREDATOR MASTERS HUNT AND CONVENTION OF FEBRUARY 6, 7, AND 8, 2014.**

The City Council is informed that:

WHEREAS, the City of Las Cruces (“the City”) is a party to a Joint Powers Agreement which created the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley (“the Center”); and

WHEREAS, the Center, through its Board of Directors, passed Resolution No. 2013-03 opposing the Predator Masters Hunt and Convention in which the Las Cruces City Council (“the Council”) concurs; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Center strive to meet the highest standards of humane animal care and husbandry, and to promote responsible pet ownership through public education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Center’s work reflects an ethic shared by the Las Cruces City Council (“Council”) and people within the Mesilla Valley and surrounding communities that strives to treat all creatures humanely and prevent the unnecessary suffering and death of animals to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that coyotes are native to New Mexico and play an important role in maintaining the balance of natural ecosystems by controlling populations of prey species such as rabbits and mice; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that scientific studies in Yellowstone National Park and elsewhere have shown that efforts to reduce coyote numbers in a given area by indiscriminately hunting or trapping them has the opposite effect, resulting in larger litter sizes and high rates of pup survival; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico law does not recognize coyotes as game species and there are no bag limits or seasons for hunting them; and

WHEREAS, the Utah based organization Predator Masters promotes recreational killing and hunting of wild carnivores such as coyotes, bobcats and foxes; and

WHEREAS, Predator Masters held its Annual Hunt and Convention in Las Cruces on February 6, 7, and 8, 2014; and

WHEREAS, based on the accounts of past hunts, participants may call and may shoot many coyotes while they are in the area, leaving the carcasses behind without utilizing the pelt, meat or any other part of the animal; and

WHEREAS, the use of public lands in Dona Ana County near Las Cruces that are also enjoyed by many people for hiking, horseback riding, dog walking, bird watching, hunting, and other outdoor activities possibly posed a threat to the safety and well-being of the City's residents and their animals; and

WHEREAS, the discarding of dead coyotes on public lands as a result of this event could constitute a nuisance and potential health hazard and may be in violation of Dona Ana County law/policy; and

WHEREAS, the indiscriminate killing of coyotes, while legal in New Mexico, does not serve any legitimate wildlife management purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Predator Masters event appears to encourage the wanton taking of life by its attendees that is contrary to the ethic adhered to by the Center and the Council that both strive to treat all creatures humanely and prevent the unnecessary suffering and death of animals to the greatest extent possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Cruces:

(I)

THAT the Las Cruces City Council opposed the Annual Predator Masters Hunt and Convention held February 6, 7 and 8, 2014, and opposes similar animal killing contests that encourage the wanton and unnecessary killing of New Mexico's wildlife.

(II)

THAT the Las Cruces City Council supports current efforts by the New Mexico Legislature to regulate such events.

(III)

THAT the Las Cruces City Council strongly recommends that Predator Masters seek a location outside the City and Dona Ana County for its annual event in the future.

(IV)

THAT a copy of this Resolution shall be conveyed to Predator Masters, the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley, Dona Ana County, the local office of the Bureau of Land Management, the State Land Office and any other officials or entities as determined by the Las Cruces City Council.

(V)

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

DONE AND APPROVED on this _____ day of _____, 20__.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(SEAL)

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Key A (ate) Lomully

City Attorney

VOTE:

Mayor Miyagishima: _____

Councillor Silva: _____

Councillor Smith: _____

Councillor Pedroza: _____

Councillor Small: _____

Councillor Sorg: _____

Councillor Levatino: _____