

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

99-330

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

JULY 26, 1999

SUBJECT:

AMENDMENT TO
ORDINANCE
REGARDING DEER
HUNTING WITHIN
CITY LIMITS

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM
MOULDER
CHIEF OF POLICE

The Polk County Deer Task Force is requesting modification and an addition to Section, 17-35.05, Hunting. The Legal Department, City Manager's Office, Police Department, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and the Polk County Deer Task Force have met and agreed on the following proposed change and additions to the ordinance:

- Modify paragraph (a) by inserting the word "antlerless" in front of the word Deer.
- Modify paragraph (a), 5., by inserting the words "Iowa" in front of the word DNR and by adding the words "Polk County Deer Management" in front of Zone.
- Create a second paragraph which allows a limited number of antlered permits to be issued.

FISCAL IMPACT -

There would be no financial impact with the modifications to the ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval.

BACKGROUND -

The ordinance, as currently written, created a loophole which allows hunters to take either sex deer on private property within the designated areas of the Des Moines Special Deer Management Zone. Last fall, a hunter, represented by an attorney, contacted the IDNR inquiring about the legality of

trophy hunting antlered deer on private property. This hunter was advised that legally he could trophy hunt on private property, but he was convinced not to only because it would have jeopardized the program. The intent of this ordinance was to manage the deer herd in the city, not trophy hunt. By modifying paragraph (a), this loophole would be eliminated and hunters also would better understand what rules are to be followed and are enforced within the Deer Management Zone.

The Polk County Deer Task Force further recommends creating a second paragraph which would allow a limited number of antlered deer to be harvested as a means to keep hunters interested in hunting within the management areas and to reduce environmental damage done by antlered deer. No antlered deer would be harvested during the 1999 season. Also, any antlered deer permits would have to be approved by the IDNR. The Polk County Deer Task Force has recommended that all entities modify their ordinances to allow for an incentive program.

In 1998, the Polk County Deer Task Force recommended to various city entities to create an ordinance, which would allow deer to be harvested within specified areas to help manage the deer population. A comparison of the 1998 and 1999 aerial survey indicated only an 8 percent increase compared to 30 percent increases in recent years. During the 1998 deer season at Water Works Park, 43 individuals obtained permits and 41 antlerless deer were harvested. The 1999 aerial survey showed a 1 percent decrease in the deer herd at Waterworks Parks.