



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

August 21, 2006

Agenda Item No. 41

Roll Call No. 06-

Communication No. 06-548

Submitted by: Donald M. Tripp, Park and Recreation Director

## AGENDA HEADING:

First Reading of the ordinance amending Chapter 70 of the Municipal Code to allow for expanded bow hunting for deer within the City of Des Moines.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of various ordinance changes in order to adopt the recommendations of the joint Deer Management Task Force regarding expanded bow hunting for deer within the City limits. This action is recommended in response to various complaints that were received last year by both staff and Council members regarding the urban deer population. The recommendations of the task force are outlined below.

## FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

Amount:

Funding Source:

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For the past several months a committee composed of City staff (Legal and Park), Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Polk County Conservation Board have been meeting with the Polk County Deer Management Task Force to explore changes to the Municipal Code related to bow hunting in order to significantly impact the size of the deer herd. The recommendations of this group are as follows:

1. In section b subsection (3) the distance a hunter can carry an uncased bow is reduced from 200 feet to 100 feet. The reduction in distance eliminates the technicality of having an uncased bow within 200 feet of a residence when hunting from a deer stand that is under 200 feet from a residence. This amendment is not intended to allow persons to openly carry bows on City streets. It will, however, allow qualified hunters participating in the Polk County Deer Management Program to hunt in accordance with the City of Des Moines ordinances.
2. Subsection (4) is added so that the Park and Recreation Department Director is authorized to issue a waiver of the 100-foot distance requirement in subsection (b)(3). This can only be done after a thorough on-site inspection is made by an inspection team composed of two (2) City of Des Moines Parks & Recreation staff, one (1) City of Des Moines Animal Control staff, one (1) Iowa Department of Natural Resources staff, and (1) Polk County Conservation Board staff. The charge of this inspection team is to determine if a site requesting to participate in the Deer

Management program can safely be hunted, and if a favorable recommendation to the Park Director can be made. Ultimately, the Park Director will determine issuance of the waiver.

3. Section (b) subsections (5, 6, and 7) have only changed in their respective numerical order due to the addition of subsection (4).

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: December 19, 2005

Roll Call Number: 05-3018

Action: Amending Chapter 70 of the Municipal Code to allow the Park & Recreation Director to permit deer hunting in City Parks. ([Council Communication No. 05-736](#)) Moved by Hensley that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 6-1. Nays: Brooks

Date: July 26, 1999

Roll Call Number: 99-2334

Action: Amending Chapter 17 of the Municipal Code regarding deer hunting. ([Council Communication No. 99-330](#)) Moved by Coleman that this ordinance be considered and given first vote for passage. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Date:

Roll Call Number:

Action:

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

Second and third readings of the ordinance.