From: WILLARD STUBSTEN FOR W K STUBSTEN
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Cc: WILLARD STUBSTEN FOR W K STUBSTEN
Subject: Urban Deer
Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 7:18:54 AM

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

08 September, 2020

My wife and I live at 2250 W Central Ave here in the middle of Missoula.

We have a fence around our yard and about 1:00 AM last Friday morning, we had a herd of deer that completely demolished our garden and smashed two of our sprinkling systems. Our corn was pounded into the ground. A neighbor said she heard a noise, shined her flashlight into our corn and told us, this big buck was tangled up in my hose and was swinging his head and trampling the corn. The next morning when I went out to look at the damage, I had corn out on the street in the alley, I had two broken PVC sprinkling systems and even damage to one of my trees. It was evident that I had more than one deer in the yard and when the one in the corn scared the others and I had deer running and jumping tkhrough my yard trying to get out.

Here is the issue, I have complained to you about these Missoula urban deer before. Just like the squirrels, years ago, we didn't have any. Then, over the years we kept seeing more and more. Now I have squirrels that have taken over the yard and trees. I cannot grow fruit without squirrel damage. The deer population, like the squirrels, was non existent in my neighborhood a few years back. Now I am being overrun by them and causing major damage. Had me or my wife gone out into the yard that morning to see what all the noise was about, we could have been in the way of them fleeing our yard.

It is time to change Missoula's city ordinances to include more language other than the few words that are there now. Especially the ordinance that declares, “it is unlawful to feed, provide feed or other attractants, excluding ornamental plants, vegetable gardens... within city limits.”

The deer in Missoula city limits should not be considered as urban wildlife. Like the squirrels, we are being overrun by these deer. They are a problem. They are damaging our neighborhoods. My wife and I have been relying on our vegetable garden to supply us and other families with vegetables all year for almost 40 years. I estimate the damage your deer did to my residence last Friday morning at over $300.00 not including the time spent weeding and spending more money watering.

Anyone there in the city hall who doubts what I am alleging, is welcome to come here and see for themselves before it gets tilled up.

I think you in the city council and Mayor Engen, need to start seeing your deer in this town, not as a bunch of bouncing Bambi's scampering from yard to yard, but as potentially dangerous and destructive animals.

Check your 6.07.1200 . It states, “Citizens of Missoula value wildlife and want to maintain healthy and wild populations of deer.... YOU DON'T HAVE IT. Other cities and towns in Montana have found ways of controlling their urban deer populations. Take a chance and start one here. Afraid you're not going to get re-elected? Continue increasing the deer population here in Missoula until someone is mauled by a mountain lion and I can guarantee all kinds of new faces in city hall come election time.

Willard E Stubsten