

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
THE HAWK – HARRISON HALL
APRIL 28, 2025 – 7:30 PM

The regular session of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Rich at 7:31PM.

Council Members Present: Aldred, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Dwyer, Knol, and Rich

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: Assistant City Manager Mondora; City Clerk Lindahl; Directors Kettler-Schmult, Schnackel, Skrobola and Sullen-Winn; Police Chief Piggott, Fire Chief Unruh and City Attorney Joppich

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Deputy Fire Chief Jason Olszewski

APPROVAL OF REGULAR SESSION MEETING AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges, support by Boleware, to approve the agenda as published.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2025 AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Bruce and accepted by Dorene Forster, Principal of Visions Unlimited, who thanked Council for recognizing and welcoming individuals with autism in Farmington Hills.

**PROCLAMATION
Autism Acceptance Month
April 2025**

WHEREAS, autism is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects how individuals perceive the world, communicate, and interact with others; and,

WHEREAS, autism is characterized by a range of differences in social interaction, communication, sensory processing, and behavior, with each individual's experience being unique and enriching our community through their diverse perspectives, talents, and abilities; and,

WHEREAS, individuals across all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds are impacted, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimating that 1 in 36 children may have autism; and,

WHEREAS, promoting acceptance and inclusion of individuals with autism enhances the quality of life for everyone and strengthens the fabric of our community; and,

WHEREAS, Autism Acceptance Month is an opportunity to emphasize the importance of inclusion, understanding, and appreciation for the neurodiverse community; and,

WHEREAS, the City celebrates people of all abilities and recognizes the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive community that reflects the City's commitment to being a place where everyone is welcome.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Theresa Rich, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as Autism Acceptance Month and acknowledge that individuals with autism and their families are valued members of the City of Farmington Hills, who contribute to, strengthen and enrich our community. Their acceptance and inclusion will be championed not only during the month of April, but throughout the entire year.

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 4, 2025 AS INTERNATIONAL FIREFIGHTERS DAY

The following proclamation was read by Councilmember Bridges and accepted by Deputy Fire Chief Jason Olszewski:

**PROCLAMATION
International Firefighters' Day
May 4, 2025**

WHEREAS, on May 4, International Firefighters' Day is observed to honor firefighters and emergency medical personnel who risk their lives to protect our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Farmington Hills Fire Department responds to thousands of calls each year for fires, medical assistance, and hazardous materials incidents, demonstrating courage and skill under pressure; and,

WHEREAS, the Farmington Hills Fire Department is committed to making every day a training day, completing 20,000 hours of training in 2024, ensuring they are prepared to support the community and meet modern challenges; and,

WHEREAS, firefighters not only extinguish fires and treat the injured but also lead vital fire prevention education programs in our schools and throughout the community, install smoke alarms for residents, teach community members CPR, AED and tourniquet skills, and give back through volunteerism; and,

WHEREAS, the safety, wellbeing, and resilience of our community depend on the professionalism, dedication, and teamwork of our fire personnel; and,

WHEREAS, International Firefighters' Day reminds us to support these public servants and to reflect on our own role in preventing fires through smoke alarm maintenance, safe cooking practices and community preparedness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Theresa Rich, Mayor of the City of Farmington Hills, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2025, as **International Firefighters' Day** in Farmington Hills. I call upon all community members to thank our firefighters for their dedicated service and to renew their personal commitment to fire safety and prevention.

Deputy Fire Chief Olszewski thanked Council for this proclamation, and spoke on behalf of the City's Firefighters, who day after day put their lives on the line, rushing toward danger, while others seek safety. Deputy Fire Chief Olszewski also spoke of the importance of properly functioning smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, which save lives.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS FROM CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Council had received correspondence from the following individuals regarding the current conversation relative to deer management in the City. As of 11am this morning, correspondence had been received from:

Amanda Poisson, Amber Osborn, Barbara Burke, Brittany Loepker, Dana Tillery, David Shenkenberg, Denise & Jim Moll, Denise Weiss, Elise Payton, Erin King, Grace Kahler, Joe Derek, John Moody, Moyce Mogill, Julie Pierpoint, Kerrie & Family, Kim Korona, Kristina Myslinski, Larry Mihalko, Laura & Jim Paulson, Lital Michaeli, Luda Livshiz, Vickey Livernois, Bill Hass, Bob Miller, Carla & Russell Nicholls, Cecilia Gaglio, Chandra Kanumuri, Christina Hale, Christina Herter, Elaine Green, Irina Stiop, Jeff & Denise Berthiaume, Jim & Tammy Soave, John Halo & Cornelia Boyce, Joseph Carbone, Julie Backalar, Kelly Skender, Linda Kato, Marilyn Childers, Mary Ann Damman, Mary Margaret Serpento, Melinda Snyder, Michael Brahm, Michael Bundy, Michele Green, Richard Stec, Amy Lazet, Benta Niemi, Lydia Read, Rakhi Shah, Sally Howell, Sandra Giardini, Rena Ban, Debbie Lim, Jan Mordenski, Tim, Cynthia & Salvatore Talerico, Nicole Carroll, Nancy Miller, Ryan Waitz, Tanya McCue, Susan Zebari-Hurd and Amal Botres, Margaret Telford, Marilyn Smith, Marisa Palance, Mark Deisinger, Melissa Burke, Melissa Matkovich, Melissa Smith, Michael Madigan, Michele Elwood, Michelle Dimaria, Miriam Skimin, Paul Jordan, Rachel Bush, Rachel Lussier, Ryan Jerrell, Sandi Nance, Sandra Breitmeyer, Sandra Ozog, Shahram Zarei, Stephanie Pittmann, Sue Piotrowski, Tim Saling, Alex Kern, Monika Sipe, Neeraj Gupta, Noel Dockett, Nutan Shah, Oscar & Nellda Walters, Patricia Powers, Patrick Switlik, Randolph O'Dell, RB, Roshni Shah, Roxanna Bundy, Somer Myers, Sonia Hernandez, Sue A, Susan Ersher, Susan Keller, Suzanne Robinson, Tyson Wyant, Beatrice Potter, Cheri Chandler, Kelly Goldberg, Marie Groves, Ramesh Shah

Regarding other correspondence, Council Member Bridges said he had received an email from a resident writing about standing water and a catch basin. The resident would like help with this situation and also wanted to know when her road is going to be repaired. Council Member Bridges passed the communication to city staff.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Bridges support by Knol, to approve the consent agenda items #7 through #15 as read by Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, to approve the consent agenda items #16 & #17 as read by Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: BRIDGES

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no consent agenda items for discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Boleware just received a text from George Curran, who wanted her to mention that he submitted his position to Council on the Deer Management Program.

Council Member Bruce announced he will host another coffee hour on Saturday at Panera Bread from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., inviting residents to discuss any City-related topics in an informal setting. The gathering is not affiliated with any campaign, but is simply an opportunity for open conversation.

Council Member Bridges reported on the following:

- There is ongoing anxiety among seniors in the community about the future of the Costick Center. He has spoken with the City Manager and Director Schnackel on the need to improve communication with seniors.
- A schedule of upcoming events and updates related to the Costick Center study will be prepared and distributed via *The Messenger* and email lists to keep residents informed.
- Bridges attended the Economic Development Committee meeting and shared that a market study on the Grand River Corridor has been completed, identifying demand for new retail—particularly a grocery store—on the city's south side.
- The City is also examining ways to revitalize 12 Mile Road, where many office complexes remain only partially occupied due to shifts in work patterns post-COVID; zoning amendments are being prepared to encourage new uses in the area.
- A separate market study is currently underway for Orchard Lake Road between 12 and 14 Mile to explore redevelopment opportunities.

Mayor Rich reported that, as discussed during the last study session, the City plans to consolidate voting precincts beginning in 2026. In preparation for this change, she attended both the Republican and Democratic club meetings to inform them of the change in advance, allowing them to begin discussions on what to do with precinct delegates.

CITY MANAGER UPDATE

Assistant City Manager Mondora made the following announcements:

- A community survey is currently available on the City's website to help assess the needs for a potential new Senior Recreation and Wellness Center. Residents can access the survey at www.fhgov.com under the "Latest News" section.
- With construction season officially underway, residents were reminded to drive cautiously through work zones. He noted that last week was National Work Zone Awareness Week and emphasized the importance of safety while traveling through the community.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION REGARDING A CHARTER AMENDMENT FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE RENEWAL TO BE PLACED ON THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 BALLOT. CMR 4-25-69

City Attorney Joppich explained that this resolution concerns the renewal of the public safety millage originally approved by voters in November 2015. The 10-year millage term is set to expire in 2026, and the proposed resolution would place a ballot question on the November 2025 ballot to renew the millage at the original rate of 1.4764 mills. The ballot language, which complies with the statutory requirement to remain under 100 words, is included in the resolution and would enable continued funding for public safety purposes as permitted by the City Charter.

If adopted, the resolution must be submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General for review and approval before the proposal can be placed on the ballot. City Attorney Joppich noted that the early timing is intended to accommodate that review process and to allow the City Clerk sufficient time to coordinate with the county. He also reminded Council that state law requires a three-fifths majority—five affirmative votes—for the resolution to pass.

MOTION by Aldred, support by Bruce, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the ballot language and adopts a resolution regarding a Charter Amendment for the renewal of the Public Safety Millage, as prepared by the City Attorney, that would fully restore the Public Safety Millage back to a millage rate of 1.4764.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE SECOND MODIFICATION OF CONSENT JUDGMENT - HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER. CMR 4-25-70

Planning and Community Development Director Kettler-Schmult presented the second modification to the consent judgment for the Holocaust Memorial Center, located on Orchard Lake Road just north of 12 Mile Road. The modification pertains specifically to changes in the design and dimensions of existing signage on the property. A portion of the existing sign would be removed and replaced. Supporting materials and visual slides were included in the meeting packet and presentation.

Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Center, was present and responded to Council questions:

- The material will be black granite.
- The modification request includes an increase in height for the new sign on the north side of the street, which exceeds the dimensions currently permitted under the original consent judgment.

MOTION by Knol, support by Bridges, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves and authorizes the City Manager and City Attorney to sign, on behalf of the City, the Second Modification of Consent Judgment and take such actions as are necessary to submit the same to the Oakland County Circuit Court for entry and recording.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION FOR DEER MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS. CMR 4-25-71

Deputy Director of Special Services Farmer led tonight's discussion. Chad Fedewa and Kara Colton, wildlife biologists for Michigan Department of Natural Resources, were also present.

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Deputy Director Farmer provided a detailed overview of the City's long-term efforts and current rationale behind the proposed deer management program.

- Since 2014, the City has studied the issue of deer overpopulation and its impact on safety, the environment, and residents' quality of life.
- The City initially consulted with the DNR for guidance and adopted several best practices based on state and regional feedback, including the model used in Ann Arbor.
- A collaborative regional approach was initiated with the creation of the Oakland County Urban Deer Coalition, which later expanded into the Southeast Michigan Urban Deer Coalition.
- In 2022, the City participated in a seven-county SEMCOG survey on deer management that received over 13,000 responses, with nearly 3,000 from Farmington Hills residents.
- The State of Michigan has recognized the deer population issue as a statewide concern. The DNR and the Natural Resource Commission formed the Deer Management Initiative (DMI), later known as the Deer Advisory Team, which consists of stakeholders from both the Lower and Upper Peninsulas.
- Among the non-regulatory recommendations that emerged was the expansion of urban deer hunting opportunities and a call for a consistent, statewide urban deer management plan to replace the patchwork of city-specific strategies.

Deputy Director Farmer outlined a comprehensive list of public education efforts the City has conducted over the past decade:

- In 2009, following the retirement of the City's naturalist, the Special Services Department—Recreation Division assumed responsibility for the Nature Center. Since then, the department has

significantly expanded programming and helped establish the facility as one of the premier nature centers in the region. The Nature Center has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors since becoming part of the Recreation Division, and the Nature Center offers many programs, including ongoing deer education:

- Installation of a deer exclosure at Heritage Park to demonstrate the impact of deer browsing on native plants.
- Educational content related to deer includes topics such as deer diet, behavior, habitat loss and degradation, the effects of high deer populations on natural resources, and current issues such as disease, hunting, baiting, vehicle collisions, and landscape impacts. Guidance is also provided on deer-resistant plants and stewardship practices.
- Programs include adult education sessions, children's activities, collaborations with Oakland County Community College, and annual programs like "Oh Deer, Santa's Here," with 1200 participants since 2021.
- The Recreation Division offers an adult nature education series, which has included six deer-focused sessions.
- Annual installation of protective barriers on trees to mitigate deer damage.
- Informational exhibits, social media outreach, cable TV segments, and regular updates on the City's website.
- Staff have delivered presentations to community organizations such as the Exemplar Club and the Optimist Club, and the City has hosted several DNR-led presentations.
- Placement of deer crossing signs based on data trends from accident reports, along with ongoing community presentations and plans for future public awareness tools such as QR codes in the activity guide and potential electronic signage.

Deputy Director Farmer summarized the reasons for proactive deer management using three primary categories: safety, environmental protection, and financial impacts.

- **Safety:** Increasing numbers of deer-vehicle collisions have been reported both in Oakland County and within Farmington Hills. Michigan State Police estimate that fewer than one in three such incidents are reported, suggesting the problem is more widespread than documented.
- **Nature:** High deer populations have led to serious degradation of natural habitats, particularly in areas like Heritage Park. Browsing has resulted in significant losses of saplings and native vegetation, increased vulnerability to invasive species, and declines in bird populations and pollinators.
- **Cost:** Residents have reported damage to personal property, injuries to pets, and vehicle damage. Many expect the City to help mitigate these costs, creating additional pressure to take action.

The 2016 SEMCOG (Southeast Michigan Council of Governments) survey revealed that 73% of Farmington Hills respondents expressed concern about deer impacts, citing vehicle collisions, disease risk (including Lyme disease), landscape destruction, and broader ecological damage. The City also worked with environmental consultants such as PlantWise to assess habitat loss, and images of heavily browsed areas illustrate the clear impact of deer overpopulation on groundcover, forest regeneration, and biodiversity.

DNR Biologist Fedewa provided further context on the DNR's role in supporting municipalities with urban deer management. Over the past 10 to 15 years, southern Michigan communities have experienced a noticeable increase in deer populations and related negative impacts, such as damage to landscapes, public safety issues, and resident complaints.

- Mr. Fedewa emphasized that the DNR does not advocate for or against specific actions but instead offers science-based guidance and outlines management options.
- The first recommended approach is public education, promoting coexistence and use of mitigation strategies such as fencing and repellents.
- As deer populations grow, and such methods become insufficient, more active measures are considered.

DNR Biologist Fedewa reviewed several commonly proposed non-lethal options and why the DNR does not recommend or approve them:

- Trap-and-relocate programs are not permitted due to disease transmission risks and high stress on animals relocated to unfamiliar environments.
- Contraceptives are not approved for use in Michigan and have not proven effective or practical due to the need for repeated dosing.
- Sterilization, involving surgery on sedated deer, has also been found ineffective in open populations where new deer continually enter, preventing meaningful reductions in herd size.

The DNR supports two effective and permitted methods for population control in urban settings: managed archery hunting and culling through special permits.

- Numerous communities in Michigan, including East Lansing, Jackson, and Meridian Township, have adopted these strategies.
- Meridian Township began an archery program in 2011 and added culling in 2020 after realizing that archery alone was insufficient.
- As a result of the combined approach, vegetative health indicators improved, and more than 6,000 pounds of venison from culled deer were donated to local food pantries in the previous year.

Deputy Director Farmer summarized local trends and resident perspectives:

- Data from Oakland County shows a growing number of deer-vehicle collisions, with similar increases observed within Farmington Hills.
- Michigan State Police estimate that fewer than one in three such collisions are reported, suggesting actual totals are higher.
- Collisions are spread throughout the city, not concentrated in one area.
- Combined responses from the City's 2016 survey and the 2022 SEMCOG survey totaled over 5,600 responses, including nearly 3,000 from Farmington Hills residents. Of those respondents, 73% expressed concern about deer-related issues, citing vehicle collisions, tick-borne illnesses, landscape damage, and ecological harm.
- Environmental consultants from PlantWise documented visible damage in city parks, particularly Heritage Park and Woodland Hills Nature Park, where deer browsing has severely degraded natural habitats. Evidence shows a loss of saplings, and continued degradation can result in up to 80% loss of ground cover, increased presence of invasive species, decreased bird populations, and reduced pollinator activity.

Deputy Director Farmer provided an overview of ongoing research and upcoming implementation plans for managing the deer population. He highlighted the City's partnership with the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, which will guide data-informed decision-making and environmental monitoring over the coming year. Preliminary findings from this collaboration support a combined approach of archery hunting and controlled culling, referencing Meridian Township

as a successful case where such measures have led to reductions in both deer density and vehicle collisions.

The City's goal is not to eliminate the deer population but to reduce it to a healthier, more sustainable level that benefits both the local environment and the deer themselves.

Deputy Director Farmer emphasized public safety and clearly distinguished between general public hunting and the City's proposed approach, which limits activities to controlled, well-supervised methods on appropriate land.

- Culling operations would begin in 2026 and be carried out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) using professional sharpshooters, thermal imaging, and suppressors. Operations would occur at night, on City-approved parcels away from populated areas, and for only two to five days per year.
- Pilot archery hunts would begin in 2027 and be conducted exclusively by trained public safety officers. These hunts would be limited to private land and would also occur only two days per year, with annual review and oversight.
- Officers participating in archery hunts would be required to demonstrate shooting proficiency, complete hunter safety certification, and undergo training on tree stand safety and harness use.
- The venison harvested through culling will be donated to local food pantries, following a model successfully used in other Michigan communities. One deer can yield approximately 40 to 50 pounds of venison, providing up to 200 meals. While Farmington Hills has not yet established a specific annual harvest goal, communities such as Meridian Township have demonstrated the potential to both reduce deer populations and contribute significant quantities of food. The program would operate under a cooperative service agreement with the USDA, signed by the City Manager, with meat processing and distribution coordinated through DNR-supported food banks. The City would provide annual implementation and outcome reports to City Council and the public to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Deer enclosure sites will be installed in Heritage Park and Woodland Hills Park as part of the monitoring plan with the University of Michigan. The U of M project team will also conduct interviews with residents and stakeholders to assess herbivory impacts and community perceptions.

Deputy Director Farmer stressed the importance of a regional approach. The City of Farmington Hills has been working with the Southeast Michigan Urban Deer Coalition, which now includes 25 communities and organizations.

- Farmington Hills is the first community to vote on the resolution. The City of Farmington is scheduled to vote on May 5, and the City of Southfield on May 8.
- As part of this regional plan, Farmington Hills would manage deer on behalf of the City of Farmington, with Farmington contributing up to \$20,000 annually to support staffing and culling efforts.
- Farmington Hills will incorporate the program into its Parks and Recreation Master Plan to ensure sustainability.

In summary:

- Culls, conducted by the USDA, would begin in 2026.
- Pilot archery hunts by public safety officers would begin in 2027.
- Temporary suspension of applicable ordinances would be required to implement the plan.

- The resolution includes provisions for annual reporting and integration into the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Council Discussion

Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer emphasized his support for the proposed deer management approach, particularly the use of certified public safety officers. He reiterated that the archery component would involve only trained officers, not the general public, and that it would be limited to two days per year beginning in 2027. Dwyer also noted the long-standing success of similar programs in other Michigan communities and in the Metro Parks.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer raised concerns about a mailer that had been distributed citywide, and which contained misleading or inaccurate information. He asked Deputy Director Farmer to address the claims point by point for the benefit of the residents present.

Deputy Director Farmer responded to the claims included in the mailer:

- Claim: "10 years of inaction."
Farmer strongly disagreed, citing the City's extensive education and outreach efforts over the past decade, including public programs, signage, and staff engagement. He emphasized the many hours invested by staff and Council in addressing deer-related concerns from residents.
- Claim: "Biased advice from DNR."
Farmer clarified that the City's recommendations stem from input not only from the DNR but also from over 20 presentations by scientists across the country and other state leaders through the Deer Management Initiative. He rejected the claim that the City had relied solely on the DNR's perspective.
- Claim: "Dangerous policy – 450-foot safety zone."
DNR Biologist Fedewa clarified that the 450-foot safety zone is a regulation that prohibits hunting with a firearm within 450' (150 yards) of certain structures without proper authorization. The 450' rule does not apply to archery due to the lower risk posed by archery equipment.
- Claim: "Families at risk."
Farmer and Fedewa addressed concerns about safety. Sharpshooting would be conducted at night in carefully chosen locations using thermal imaging and suppressors by highly trained USDA personnel. Archery hunting would be performed by public safety officers using elevated tree stands and specialized equipment. No hunting activity would take place in subdivisions or in residents' backyards. USDA sharpshooters have an impeccable safety record, and they've done this type of deer removal in many communities over the years throughout the state.
- Claim: "Not scientific."
Fedewa noted that the flyer continually refers to "tame" deer, yet urban deer are wild animals. He cited data linking the rise in deer-vehicle collisions with increased deer populations, and pointed to Meridian Township as a case where deer culling led to a measurable decrease in collisions and vegetative damage.
- Claim: "Never-ending slaughter"
Fedewa and Farmer addressed deer population sustainability and reproduction, explaining the principle of *carrying capacity*—the maximum number of animals an environment can support. In the absence of natural predators, deer populations naturally rise until they reach or exceed this threshold, leading to negative consequences such as habitat degradation, starvation, and increased disease risk. Without intervention, population rebounds are inevitable due to high birth rates and

migration from surrounding areas. Reaching a more sustainable deer population will require long-term planning and will take approximately five to seven years of consistent management. The City's goal is not to eliminate deer, but to maintain a healthier and ecologically balanced population.

- Claim: "Dividing the community."

Farmer acknowledged the issue is divisive but emphasized the City's responsibility to make informed decisions based on data, safety, and environmental stewardship.

- Claim: "Better solutions exist – Rochester Hills"

Farmer reported that Rochester Hills is part of the same regional deer coalition and confirmed that their strategy has focused solely on public education, such as brochures and signage. He noted that recent declines in deer numbers there were due to outbreaks of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), not non-lethal management. In 2021, Rochester Hills collected 140 dead deer due to EHD. He cautioned that inaction could lead to similar outcomes in Farmington Hills.

Mayor Pro Tem Dwyer acknowledged that the issue is emotionally difficult for many residents but affirmed the need for action to address the serious impacts of deer overpopulation.

Council Member Bruce said that many residents had contacted him with concerns about the City targeting "tame" animals. He asked Mr. Fedewa to explain the difference between tame and habituated wildlife.

DNR Biologist Fedewa explained that while some deer may appear tame, they are in fact *habituated*—accustomed to living near people but still fundamentally wild. True domestication or taming takes generations of controlled breeding. Habituated deer will still act unpredictably and aggressively.

Council Member Bridges questioned the timing and completeness of data presented to Council. He expressed concern that communication efforts were omitted from the March 24 study session presentation and only added later at his prompting.

Deputy Director Farmer explained that due to the volume of material available, presentations are necessarily selective. Additional information was included in the current presentation in response to council member feedback.

Council Member Bridges continued to question the significance of the data presented. 180 logged deer-related calls over a seven-year period equated to about two complaints per month. Also, the risk posed by deer vehicle collisions was low. Based on 122 incidents over five years the risk of deer vehicle collisions was 0.15% probability relative to the City's population. He emphasized that the decision to proceed with deer management should be based on demonstrable impact—specifically complaints and safety incidents—not deer population numbers alone.

Deputy Director Farmer corrected that the actual number of recorded deer vehicle collision in Farmington Hills was 621 over five years, not 122.

Noting that the City's ordinance prohibiting the feeding of deer was enacted in 2017, and that only one enforcement complaint was lodged since that time, Council Member Bridges argued that there was a need for stronger public education and outreach regarding the ordinance. He reiterated the importance

of using both quantitative and qualitative data—such as deer-vehicle collisions, resident complaints, and landscape damage—to guide policy decisions. He also questioned the City's efforts to inform residents about deer-resistant plantings and alternative landscaping choices.

Council Member Bridges asked whether fencing existed between parklands and adjacent neighborhoods. Deputy Director Farmer confirmed that no such fencing is currently in place, and DNR Biologist Fedewa stated that fencing can be effective at keeping deer out of certain areas, but only if it is at least 10 feet tall.

Council Member Bridges pointed out that ecological management is very important relative to deer management, yet the City has not had a naturalist or biological expert on staff for several years. He asked the City to consider hiring a biological or wildlife expert to advise on sustainable land and wildlife practices.

Council Member Knol asked for further information regarding food donations. Deputy Director Farmer explained that venison from culled deer would be processed through programs such as Hunters Feeding Michigan (formerly Sportsmen Against Hunger) and other nonprofit groups. The meat would then be distributed to organizations like CARES and other local food banks in Farmington Hills.

Council Member Knol asked about sterilization. DNR Biologist Fedewa noted that Ann Arbor received approval in 2017 to use sterilization as part of a research study but that had ceased in 2018. Council Member Knol clarified that the Michigan Legislature passed a law in 2018 restricting sterilization efforts after complications were reported during the Ann Arbor program, including infections, injuries, and procedural risks.

Council Member Boleware thanked Deputy Director Farmer for his ongoing work and asked about Oakland County's culling efforts. Farmer confirmed that culls are currently being conducted in county parks such as Groveland Oaks and Addison Oaks. These programs have recently expanded and are considered successful in helping reduce deer populations in those areas.

Council Member Boleware asked about the relationship between deer overpopulation and pollinators. DNR Biologist Chad Fedewa explained that deer, as herbivores, consume herbaceous plants that pollinators rely on for nectar and pollen. In overbrowsed environments with little ground vegetation, pollinators lose essential food sources, leading to broader ecological disruptions. Deputy Director Farmer added that this conclusion was supported by the City's ecological assessment conducted by PlantWise and aligned with research presented through the Deer Management Initiative (DMI).

Council Member Boleware related a recent conversation with a commissioner in Ann Arbor regarding that city's former deer sterilization program. She noted the procedure was time-intensive (taking up to two hours per deer), led to infection risks, and sparked controversy, including debate around animal reproductive rights. The program was ultimately discontinued and the 2018 state law was passed to prohibit sterilization efforts due to ineffectiveness and ethical concerns. Boleware cited the American Veterinary Medical Association's position that humane culling by rifle is preferred over sterilization.

Council Member Aldred thanked staff for their months of effort on the deer management issue and commended Council Member Dwyer for providing an opportunity to publicly correct misinformation found in the widely distributed mailer. Council Member Aldred emphasized the importance of factual accuracy in addressing complex and emotional public policy decisions.

Mayor Rich addressed resident concerns raised in emails, many of which were prompted by the flyer. These concerns included fears of individuals with firearms operating in residential neighborhoods. She requested clarification that any proposed culling would not occur in neighborhoods and that private property involvement would require landowner consent.

Deputy Director Farmer confirmed:

- No culling would occur in residential neighborhoods.
- Culls on private land would only take place on parcels of at least five acres.
- Participation would require consent from the property owner and formal permitting through the DNR and USDA.
- Liability coverage would be established through agreements involving the landowner, the participating agency (such as USDA or trained public safety officers), and organizations like the National Deer Association.
- Site selection for culling would be based on cross-referencing aerial deer counts, deer-vehicle collision data, and logged resident complaints.

Deputy Director Farmer reiterated that the proposed plan follows existing models used in other communities and relies on a structured, well-established process.

Public Comment

Mayor Rich opened the floor to public comment.

Members of the public who spoke against the proposed deer management plan included: Madhumitha Aravanan, Bob Allen, Amy Lazet, Dalton Brosnan, Matthew Hollander, Justin Baker, Karen Amick, Rohit Seshadri, Terry Lewis, Paul Huyck, Karen Peper, Bob Sebulak, Theresa Hanahan, Sue Garrity, Kaitlin McHenry, Michele Peterson, Gregg Nathanson, Janice Jeffres, Kimberly Corona, Brenda Cook, Denise Lurkey, Tom Progar, Kas Howell, Russ Ragone, Christine Lesser, Michelle Nawal, Debbie Kastner, Dave Winkler, Monica Sipe (Royal Oak), Monique Balaban (Rochester Hills), Hemant Shah (Livonia) of the Jain Society, Michelle DeMaria (West Bloomfield)

Those opposing the deer management plan raised concerns and suggested alternative approaches, including:

- Non-lethal methods are available and have been used effectively elsewhere, including sterilization and contraception, wildlife crossings, etc.
- Deer crossing signs can only be effective if they can be seen. Make sure the signs meet this criterion.
- Educate residents about deer resistant plants available for landscaping.
- Other ecological issues are of equal or greater importance, including the negative consequences from the use of fertilizers and weed killers on lawns.
- Culling doesn't work and may unintentionally increase the deer population.
- Culling does not reduce vehicle/deer collisions. Such collisions represent a very small percentage of traffic in this area. Signage warning of deer crossings could be more numerous.

- Deer have an inherent right to exist, and humans need to learn to co-exist with the animals in their midst.
- Residents appreciate the presence of deer in their yards, noting that the animals contribute to a sense of peace and well-being, particularly during stressful times. Most residents do not complain about the deer.
- The deer problem does not actually exist. Educate people to plant deer resistant plants and to drive more carefully, especially at night. The deer population in Farmington Hills is healthy. The parks have not been overbrowsed.
- Deer hunts in urban areas are inherently dangerous and should not be permitted. It is inevitable that a resident will be hurt or killed.
- Information presented by DNR and City staff is not definitive and is biased.
- The City's culture does not align with killing deer via a cull. The majority of respondents do not want the City to kill deer. Killing deer is not humane. Killing deer year after year is not effective because of the compensatory affect.
- There are natural predators of the deer in the City, including coyotes.
- Urban deer culls are the result of the DNR wanting more people to have hunting licenses.

Members of the public who spoke in support of the proposed deer management plan included: Carolyn Bowden, Ellen Silverberg, Douglas Graydin, Erick Ryberg, Karen Phillips, Colleen Redmond, Ray Klimas, Michael James Clarahan, Tim Devine, Sharon Brown, Barbara Williams, Duke Orr, Janet Dabish, Jonathan Jackson

Supporters cited the following reasons for supporting the deer management plan:

- Deer eat everything. Sprays and other deterrents are not long-term solutions. Deer have eaten spruce and juniper trees, as well as other landscaping. People that used to grow vegetable gardens can no longer do that. Residents who took pride and invested heavily in their landscaping now have their flowers and ornamental plants destroyed. Landscaping that once provided privacy along property lines is lost. Deer scat is widespread, and lawns are torn up by deer moving through the area during rain.
- Visual sightings of sick/injured deer; experience with deer dying nearby or in their own yards.
- Long time residents report that there were no deer in their yards prior to about 2000, after which the deer became more and more visible and numerous and destructive.
- Some speakers or members of their families have experienced deer/vehicle collisions.
- Deer overcrowding results in serious deer diseases.
- Deer are not tame. Speakers have seen deer be aggressive to humans including small children, and one resident reported an aggressive deer in rut kill a "not small" dog while the dog was outside in its own yard. Another resident reported a deer attacked his dog. Speakers related instances of deer chasing adults who were walking down the street or trying to enter their own homes.
- Michigan's deer population is approximately 2 million, contributing to widespread ecological and property damage across the state.
- The deer management program will not eradicate the deer; the deer will still be present in Farmington Hills, but in a more natural balance.
- Managing the deer population will protect the ecological balance in the City's parks, including the preservation of pollinator plants and the protection of food sources for smaller animals.

Jackie Ford, Farmington Hills resident, asked that Council take time to make their decision.

Hemant Shah of the Jain Society said the Jain society will be happy to fund other methods of deer management.

Council discussion and action

As public comments had ended, Mayor Rich brought the matter back to the Council for discussion and action.

Council Member Knol delivered extended remarks to explain her support for the proposed deer management resolution.

A common assertion is that humans have encroached on deer territory. However, Farmington Hills has been a largely built-out community since the 1990s, with most subdivisions established between the 1950s and 1990s. The deer population explosion has been a more recent phenomenon, based on feedback from long-time residents and personal observation.

- Residents who have lived in the City for decades consistently report that deer sightings were rare in earlier years but have increased dramatically since the early 2000s.
- Emails received by Council from residents highlighted daily deer sightings and escalating property damage, often from herds as large as 20 deer.
- One resident who had returned to the family home after living near Kensington Park in Milford reported seeing more deer in Farmington Hills than he did on seven acres backing a state park.

Council Member Knol emphasized that many residents have made attempts to protect their landscaping and property through fencing and sprays, with little success.

- Residents reported deer damaging evergreen trees, snapping branches, and rubbing bark off trunks during rutting season.
- Experts advised that during winter, deer often feed on evergreens out of desperation, which contributes to their extensive damage.

Council Member Knol reiterated that the environmental impacts of overbrowsing extend to public lands like Heritage Park, where native plants have been decimated, allowing invasive species to dominate. Biologists have recommended a controlled burn as a restoration method. Deer are contributing to this environmental imbalance by destroying native vegetation.

Council Member Knol also addressed health and safety issues raised by residents and confirmed by data:

- Increased deer-vehicle collisions are evident from growing numbers of carcasses seen on roadsides by DPW crews.
- Many collisions go unreported, and even when not fatal to the driver, they may result in injured deer dying on private property, burdening residents with the responsibility of disposal.
- Knol countered claims that deer-vehicle collisions only happen to careless drivers, noting that deer frequently dart into roadways with little warning, especially during low-light conditions.

Council Member Knol refuted the effectiveness of sterilization and non-lethal methods, stating:

- Sterilization was tried as a research project in Ann Arbor but was ultimately banned by state legislation in 2018 due to complications and ethical concerns.

- Birth control for deer is not legal in Michigan because the drugs required are not approved and are categorized as pesticides.
- Spray deterrents and deer-resistant plants may work temporarily, but desperate deer will consume nearly any vegetation, especially as other food sources dwindle.

Council Member Knol explained why fencing is not a viable citywide solution:

- Standard residential fencing is inadequate to keep deer out. Even six- and eight-foot fences are easily jumped by deer.
- Large fences along roadways or in front yards would drastically alter the City's character and are often prohibited by homeowners' associations.
- Examples were shared of deer circumventing fences by walking on porches and destroying commercial landscaping at local nurseries and businesses despite substantial barriers.

Reiterating the misinformation in the public mailer, Council Member Knol explained:

- Culling would not occur in neighborhoods or without the consent of landowners.
- Only trained sharpshooters and public safety officers would participate in any hunting activities.
- Archery hunts would be conducted from elevated stands with controlled, short-range shots using high-powered bows. In most cases, deer would only run a short distance after a successful hit.
- Liability and permitting processes would be coordinated with property owners, the DNR, USDA, and other partners.

Council Member Knol responded to comparisons with Rochester Hills, pointing out that their approach has been limited to signage and public awareness, not actual population control. She noted that this passive approach still results in numerous accidents and leaves both people and animals at risk.

Council Member Knol concluded by expressing admiration for deer but emphasized the need for a balanced ecosystem for the health of both the deer and the community.

- Deer overpopulation threatens landscaping, safety, home values, and the environment.
- A structured deer management program led by professionals would preserve the community's quality of life and support sustainable coexistence with wildlife.

For these reasons, Council Member Knol stated her strong support for the resolution.

Council Member Aldred thanked residents for their input and emphasized the importance of respectful dialogue, noting that residents share the same underlying values—namely, maintaining a beautiful and livable environment and preserving what makes Farmington Hills a desirable place to live.

Council Member Aldred said that the increase in deer population was not seriously disputed. The question was whether that increase constitutes a problem. He addressed two key areas of concern: public safety and environmental impact.

Council Member Aldred cited data indicating a threefold increase in deer carcass pickups over the past decade, correlating with a rise in vehicle collisions. He noted that in 2023 there were 144 reported deer collisions, likely an undercount. While some may view this as a human safety issue, Aldred emphasized the harm to the animals themselves, arguing that allowing deer to be struck and killed—or severely

injured—in traffic is an inhumane and dangerous way to control the population. He described the disturbing sight of injured deer limping through residential areas.

Council Member Aldred referred to the findings of the PlantWise ecological study, which documented significant ecological degradation in city parks such as Woodland Hills and Heritage Park due to overbrowsing by deer. He stressed that the loss of native tree saplings and vegetation has cascading effects on birds, insects, and overall habitat health, and while deer may not be the sole cause, their impact is substantial and well-documented.

Council Member Aldred reviewed a range of non-lethal alternatives, including planting deer-resistant species, installing signage, and enforcing feeding bans. He stated that Farmington Hills has already implemented these measures, and while more could be done, especially around public education, those strategies alone have proven insufficient. He also reiterated that sterilization is not a viable option due to its impracticality and legal restrictions.

Council Member Aldred explained that the proposed resolution includes a carefully controlled culling program carried out by trained professionals using elevated positions, silencers, and nighttime operations to ensure safety. He expressed confidence that the process posed no risk to residents and clarified that no hunting would occur in neighborhoods or without landowner consent.

Regarding the use of archery, the planned use of bows and crossbows by trained public safety officers would offer added flexibility and cost-efficiency over time.

Council Member Aldred stressed the need for ongoing monitoring of the deer management program. He advocated for annual reviews and data tracking to assess effectiveness and to guide future decisions.

Council Member Aldred stated his support for the resolution, citing both the growing impacts of the deer population and the thoughtful design of the proposed management plan.

Council Member Boleware acknowledged the wide range of perspectives she had received from residents via email over the past several months. She had read all communications and made an effort to validate concerns on both sides of the issue. In addition to listening to presentations from staff and the DNR, she conducted her own research, consulting sources such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University of Michigan, and the University of Chicago. She stressed that her decision was grounded in research rather than personal opinion and acknowledged that, regardless of the outcome, some residents would be disappointed.

Council Member Boleware described a significant change in deer populations across the state and region, noting that Michigan has one of the highest deer populations in the nation, second only to Wisconsin. She recalled never seeing deer in places like Highland Park and Detroit during her youth, but sightings have now become common even in those areas. This shift points to a regional imbalance.

Council Member Boleware explained that natural predators play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. Without predators, overpopulation leads to environmental degradation, disease, and suffering within the animal population. She cautioned that Farmington Hills and its surrounding communities may be on the verge of such consequences.

Council Member Boleware affirmed that both sides of the debate had valid arguments and that non-lethal strategies like signage, education, and deer-resistant plantings are worth continuing. However, based on her 30 years of residency in the City, she believes the deer population has grown to an unsustainable level. She reported that even “deer-resistant” plants in her yard had recently been eaten—an indication that the deer are becoming increasingly desperate and food-stressed. She noted that deer typically remain within a small geographic range and that local overpopulation is not easily mitigated by migration.

Council Member Boleware stressed the importance of compassion for the animals, arguing that inaction could lead to greater suffering for the deer themselves. Many residents enjoy wildlife but when the natural balance is lost, chaos and disruption follow. The goal is not to eliminate deer entirely from the city, but to restore balance to the ecosystem for the sake of both people and animals.

Council Member Boleware recounted her experience with a deer-vehicle collision at Middlebelt and Ten Mile, noting that the accident occurred even though she was driving slowly, and resulted in extensive damage to her car. She referenced a statistic from State Farm indicating that one in 59 drivers is likely to be involved in a deer-related crash. This level of risk unsustainable.

Council Member Boleware supported the resolution before Council but requested additional safeguards. Specifically, she expressed concern about the use of bows and arrows and asked that only professionals—such as public safety officers or USDA personnel—be authorized to participate. She also requested that the resolution clearly specify the number of days for any cull and outline who would be permitted to carry it out.

Council Member Bridges stated his opposition to the proposed resolution, emphasizing that he did not believe sufficient justification had been presented to warrant lethal deer management in Farmington Hills. Drawing on his 17 years of service on Council, he explained that he bases decisions on objective data and evidence rather than anecdotal or biased accounts.

Council Member Bridges cited city records showing 180 deer-related complaints over a seven-year period, an average of approximately two per month. He argued that this figure does not indicate a significant community-wide problem. Additionally, he noted that the City’s ordinance prohibiting deer feeding had resulted in only one recorded complaint and no violations since its adoption in 2017, suggesting a lack of enforcement as well as limited resident concern.

Council Member Bridges acknowledged that there had been approximately 621 deer-vehicle accidents over the past five years, or about 122 per year. When compared to Farmington Hills’ population of 82,000, this results in an approximate 0.15% probability of such a crash—far lower than the likelihood of a general traffic accident. This data does not support a compelling case for lethal intervention.

Council Member Bridges referenced city surveys in 2016 and 2022 in which 60% of respondents opposed lethal deer management strategies, including bow hunting. Public opinion should carry weight in Council’s decision-making, especially given the City’s responsibility to represent the community’s views.

Council Member Bridges advocated for expanded education about deer-resistant plantings, which are

effective when used properly. Many local nurseries carry such plant varieties. He also supported enhanced public communication about the deer feeding ordinance and called for greater enforcement of existing rules.

Council Member Bridges recommended that the City hire a wildlife expert to help develop and implement non-lethal deer management strategies. Farmington Hills lacks internal expertise on wildlife issues and should not rely solely on local government staff for these complex decisions.

Council Member Bridges referenced a stakeholder survey conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which found that local governments were among the least trusted sources of accurate information about deer issues. This underscores the need for expert input rather than internally driven proposals.

Council Member Bridges reiterated that his decision was rooted in factual analysis and public sentiment. He did not believe the current data justified lethal measures and instead called for a stronger focus on education, enforcement, and professional guidance. He will vote against the resolution.

Mayor Rich thanked the members of the public for attending and staying for the duration of the meeting, as well as for the hundreds of emails received on the topic. She said that she had read every email and stated that her colleagues on Council had done the same.

She noted that she personally enjoys seeing deer and is not a hunter, but she believed it was important to address the growing issue. She emphasized that the University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability selected the City of Farmington Hills for a research project after a competitive process. The research team was composed of graduate students from a variety of disciplines within environment and sustainability, including social justice, and the team did not approach the project with a bias in favor of hunting.

Mayor Rich noted that Farmington and Southfield would be having a vote very soon on this same issue, and that Livonia had indicated plans to do the same. She reminded attendees that during her campaign for Mayor, she identified deer management as a key priority and had advocated for a regional approach, which this resolution supports.

Mayor Rich addressed a public comment suggesting that there is no hunger in the community, stating that approximately 26% of students in local schools are food insecure. She cited a recent visit to the local food pantry CARES, where staff reported that current demand matches peak levels typically seen during the holiday season. While food donations are not the reason for pursuing a cull, they would be a beneficial byproduct.

Mayor Rich said she had met with the folks at Jain Temple regarding their concerns. She supported finding ways to mitigate the issues over time, but she would support moving forward this evening.

Mayor Rich proposed an amendment to Section 2.b), which outlines bow hunting beginning in 2027. She recommended that participation be limited to public safety personnel only, stating that this limitation would provide greater assurance regarding safety and accountability.

Mayor Rich emphasized that doing nothing was not a viable option. She suggested advocating to state legislators for a broader range of deer management tools, including revisiting contraception-based approaches as science and technology evolve. In the meantime, Mayor Rich will support the resolution as amended, contingent on language specifying that any bow hunting be limited to public safety personnel:

Section 2.b) will read: "Teams of Public Safety personnel that will oversee and participate in the highly regulated deer hunting program."

Section 2.c), second paragraph, last sentence will be changed to read: "The use of other firearms will be strictly prohibited during the highly regulated hunts performed through public safety."

MOTION by Aldred, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby adopts the following resolution:

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, RESOLUTION NO. R-85-25

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL FOR DEER MANAGEMENT
WITHIN THE CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS**

RESOLUTION NO. R-85-25

WHEREAS, the overpopulation of white-tailed deer in the State of Michigan, including the City of Farmington Hills, has led to increased public safety and public health concerns, such as increased deer-vehicle collisions, destruction of natural and residential landscapes, and potential exposure to diseases; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) supports appropriate management of deer populations to mitigate these negative impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments conducted an independent study, which indicated that approximately 73% of Farmington Hills residents, 74% of Oakland County residents and 66% of all southeast Michigan residents have concerns related to deer overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills is an active member of the Southeast Michigan Urban Deer Coalition, a group of more than 25 communities and organizations in seven counties that is collaborating with the MDNR to implement effective deer management strategies in urban and suburban communities; and

WHEREAS, the MDNR, in its Michigan Deer Management Plan and Managing Deer Within Suburban Communities, has identified organized deer culls and highly regulated hunts as the safest and most effective methods to manage the deer population in urban environments; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to contract with qualified entities, such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to conduct comprehensive deer management programs, including organized deer culls, which are anticipated to take place on an annual basis during a designated timeframe, beginning in 2026; and

WHEREAS, to work with the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)-Wildlife Services (WF) for purposes of undertaking comprehensive deer management programs, including organized deer culls, the USDA requires the City to submit a Work Initiation Document for Wildlife Damage Management and to enter into a Cooperative Service Agreement with APHIS-WS; and

WHEREAS, the City of Farmington Hills also seeks to partner with the MDNR, relevant stakeholders, and communities of the Southeast Michigan Urban Deer Coalition to implement a highly regulated deer hunting program on an annual basis beginning in 2027; and

WHEREAS, the USDA reports that approximately one in seven Michigan households experienced food insecurity in 2023; and

WHEREAS, one deer will provide approximately 160 nutritious meals, venison harvested during culls will be donated to area food banks and venison harvested during highly regulated hunts will be kept by hunters or donated to food banks; and

WHEREAS, the deer management plan will be incorporated into the ecological plan section of the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be reviewed every five years and submitted to the MDNR; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate these necessary deer management efforts, the City Council finds it appropriate to temporarily suspend enforcement of City Code Sections 18-307 and 19-65(1), which prohibit the discharge of firearms within the City and possession of bows in City parks, strictly for the purpose of authorized deer culls and highly regulated hunts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, as follows:

1. Temporary Suspension of Ordinance Enforcement
 - Enforcement of City Code Sections 18-307 and 19-65(1), which prohibit the discharge of firearms within the City and possession of bows in City parks, shall be temporarily suspended solely during authorized deer culls and highly regulated hunts, as specified in this resolution.
2. Authorized Participants
 - This suspension shall apply only to:
 - a) Authorized agents of the entity approved to conduct authorized deer culls.
 - b) Teams of Public Safety personnel that will oversee and participate in the highly regulated deer hunting program.
3. Permitted Weapons
 - Authorized agents of the entity approved to conduct deer culls will be authorized to use firearms for the sole purpose of deer management.
 - Confirmed participants in the highly regulated deer hunting program shall be restricted to the use of crossbows and bows. The use of other firearms will be strictly prohibited during the highly regulated hunts performed through public safety.
4. Public Safety and Compliance
 - The City shall coordinate with the USDA, MDNR and relevant stakeholders to ensure all culls and hunts are conducted in compliance with federal, state and local regulations.
 - Appropriate public notification and safety measures shall be implemented prior to any culling or hunting activities.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan, hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign and submit to APHIS-WH on behalf of the City the Work Initiation Document for Wildlife Damage Management and the Cooperative Service Agreement with APHIS-WS, subject to the City Attorney's final review of said Agreement.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1 (Bridges opposed).

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT FOR THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY TO HOLD THE ANNUAL ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER FEST, TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025.

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves a Special Event Permit for the Farmington Community Library to hold the Annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Fest on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the Farmington Community Library located at 32737 W. 12 Mile Road, from 12pm to 4pm, subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The event will be open to the public and parking will be on site utilizing the existing parking lot
- Two 10 x 10 tents will be utilized for food vendors
- There will be no obstructions for the safe passage of emergency vehicles
- Proponent shall contact Fire Prevention to set up an Annual Inspection prior to event
- Egress shall be maintained throughout the building
- Fires lanes shall not be blocked or restricted
- All applicable permits shall be applied for through the Building Department
- Event shall comply with minimum Fire Prevention Code requirements
- Proponent will need to apply for an electrical permit and have all extension cords and connections in place for the Fairs/Festival final safety inspection to be conducted on May 2, 2025

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A CONCESSION AGREEMENT WITH WEBB HUMAN PERFORMANCE SYSTEMS, LLC FOR SPORTS PERFORMANCE TRAINING SERVICES AT THE ICE ARENA IN THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF \$23,196 FOR TWO YEARS WITH OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS. CMR 4-25-72

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves a Concession Agreement with Webb Human Performance Systems, LLC for sports performance training services at the Ice Arena in the annual amount of \$23,196 for two years with optional extensions.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FINANCING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND PROJECTS. CMR 4-25-73

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby adopts the Resolution (as prepared by Miller Canfield) authorizing the issuance of Capital Improvement Bonds, for the purpose of financing Capital Improvement Fund projects.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A COOK. CMR 4-25-74

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Patricia Spain, as a Cook, who is related to an employee of the City, Eric Forge, who is a Police/Fire Dispatcher.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR AN EDUCATION COORDINATOR (SPORTS). CMR 4-25-75

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Jake Rand, as an Education Coordinator (Sports), who is related to an employee of the City, Jeff Rand, who is a Camp Counselor for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH

Nays: NONE

Absent: NONE

Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF A REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT UNDER SECTION 10.01A OF THE CITY CHARTER FOR A LIFEGUARD INSTRUCTOR. CMR 4-25-76

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves an employment request per Section 10.01A of the City Charter for Christopher Nunnery, as a Lifeguard Instructor, who is related to an employee of the City, Larry Nunnery, who is an Aquatics Coordinator for Special Services.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR THE LIQUID DEICER FILL POINT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO BRINE MASTERS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$202,589.82. CMR 4-25-77

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Brine Masters, Inc. of Charleston, South Carolina in the amount of \$202,589.82 for the purchase and installation of a replacement liquid deicer fill point distribution system located at the Division of Public Works.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF AWARD OF BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF METAL CULVERT PIPE AND RELATED ACCESSORIES TO JENSEN BRIDGE AND SUPPLY COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,517.45. CMR 4-25-78

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Jensen Bridge and Supply Company of Sandusky, Michigan in the amount of \$58,517.45 for the purchase of metal culvert pipe and related accessories.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF AWARD FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF AUDIO AND VISUAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER AND CONFERENCE ROOM AT FIRE HEADQUARTERS TO AVI-SPL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$201,797.00. CMR 4-25-79

MOTION by Bridges, support by Knol, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby authorizes the City Manager to issue a purchase order to AVI-SPL in the amount of \$201,797.00 for the purchase and installation of audio and visual equipment for the EOC and Conference room at Fire Headquarters.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRIDGES, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: NONE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2025.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of April 14, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: BRIDGES

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2025.

MOTION by Bruce, support by Boleware, that the City Council of Farmington Hills hereby approves the City Council study session meeting minutes of April 14, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: ALDRED, BOLEWARE, BRUCE, DWYER, KNOL, AND RICH
Nays: NONE
Absent: NONE
Abstentions: BRIDGES

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The regular session of City Council meeting adjourned at 12:38AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carly Lindahl, City Clerk