

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Resolution on the Wildlife Management Program

January 9, 2008

Whereas, as a result of recommendations by EQAC and the Deer Management Committee (formed in 1999 within the County Executive's office), the Wildlife Management Program, under the leadership of the County Wildlife Biologist, was implemented in 1999 and 2000; and

Whereas, the County Wildlife Biologist role was envisioned as somewhat like that of the Environmental Coordinator, i.e., as a function that could interact broadly with a variety of county and outside agencies to address and provide leadership for implementation of program goals, including major interactions with, among others, Fairfax County Park Authority, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Fairfax County Health Department, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Department of Natural Resources, U.S. National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas, sometime later the program was placed within the Police Department Patrol Bureau apparently because that is where the Animal Control Section is located, and various additional functions have been incorporated such as the goose program; and

Whereas, the only real operational interaction of the Wildlife Management Program with the Fairfax County Police Department is with the Special Operations Tactical Team in the Operations Support Bureau which supplies sharpshooters for deer-herd culling operations in county parks; and

Whereas, the recent reorganization of the Animal Services Division of the Police Department has further impaired the ability of the Wildlife Management Program to function as intended; and

Whereas, the most appropriate location for the Wildlife Management Program would be somewhere within the Office of the County Executive with the County Wildlife Biologist as program manager, where its broad coordinative functions could be most effectively performed, while an alternate, but less desirable possibility, would be as part of the Park Authority's Resource Management Division; now therefore

Be it resolved, that EQAC finds the current organizational arrangement significantly impairs the ability to effectively conduct the Wildlife Management Program and believes that the program functions and personnel should be relocated elsewhere in the county structure and at a level consistent with the broad range of required coordinative functions; and

Be it further resolved, that EQAC requests that the County Auditor retrieve and inventory all equipment purchased on the budget of the Wildlife Management Program so that it can be relocated along with the personnel and operational functions.