

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Christy Barnes <Christy@btglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 4:53 PM
To: List - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MB Fire Department

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Dear Manhattan Beach City Council,

I have been hearing a lot of talk regarding our local fire department, and I am simply writing to voice my concerns as a resident and homeowner of Manhattan Beach, as I don't know the exact items that City Council has control over.

I grew up in a small town, where the fire and police departments were a very large part of our community; I thought that Manhattan Beach possessed the same desire as my small town growing up.

Our community members notice, recognize, and appreciate our local agency staff throughout town; during events, when a friend gets hurt, when accidents occur. They are the first on the scene, and they are there within minutes. I believe we all take comfort seeing a friendly face, a face that will pass us in the grocery store a week later. Our community needs to do whatever it needs to in order keep our Fire Department local (do not outsource to LA County!) and promote within. A career in a fire department comes with time and dedication; from what I know, when a chief is hired from outside of a department, they do not have the same love for our community like they do when hiring from within, they consider this a "job" and not local community. We need to hire all fire chiefs and battalion chiefs from within. There should also be a battalion chief on staff 24/7, is this not the case currently? So confusing why this wouldn't be the case actually.

Something happened to disrupt our fire department within the past few years, and the community is feeling it.

City Council needs to do the right thing; they need to keep the negotiated agreements in place, they need to employ firefighters and paramedics together, they need to bring our community back together again. This seems so simple and yet it saddens me to think that our city council doesn't believe that our fire fighters deserve the absolute best. Manhattan Beach, you can do better. Prove it!

Cheers,
Christy Barnes

Martha Alvarez, MMC

From: Randi Feilich <rfeilich@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 5:27 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments for City Council this evening- I plan to call in

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Good evening Mayor Napolitano and City Council Members- My name is Randi Feilich and I am a Humane Policy Volunteer for Humane Society United States. Our California State Director, Jenny Berg also sent you a letter last week regarding your proposed trapping of wildlife, being coyotes.

According to scientific studies, trapping does not work to effectively reduce coyote populations. In fact, it has the opposite effect, as coyotes will increase their reproductive rate by breeding at an earlier age and having larger litters, with a higher survival rate among the young. This allows coyote populations to quickly bounce back, even when as much as 70 percent of their numbers are removed. In addition, California Fish and Wildlife Law mandates that all coyotes trapped, must be killed. California law does not allow for relocation of coyotes. The most common method for trapping coyotes is a snare trap. Snare traps are indiscriminate. A loose dog or free roaming cat can fall victim to a snare trap, Snare traps are inhumane and cruel. The trapped coyote suffers a slow and painful death, by choking until the trapper comes and either shoots it or gasses it to death.

According to California Fish and Game Law, it would be nearly impossible to trap in Manhattan Beach. Having taken a close look at the city of Manhattan Beach, geographically, it does not appear a trapper could comply with a state regulation, prohibiting traps within 150 yards of another person's home without that person - or those persons', written consent.

Instead, we urge the City of Manhattan Beach to educate their residents on how to coexist and safeguard their pets and family

members. Coyote bites on a human are extremely rare. As a comparison, there are about 4 million dog bites per year, usually from family pets.

Please consider Wildlife Watch program offered by the California Fish and Wildlife Agency, or reach out to Wildlife Emergency Services for training and education.

Some simple tips include:

- Install motion-activated lights, noise or alarms.
- Remove bird feeders from yard. They attract rodents which attracts coyotes.
- do not leave pet food outside. If you are feeding feral cats, remove the food right away.
- Pick up fallen fruit
- Keep Bar B ques clean
- Never feed a coyote! Feeding a coyote will cause it to lose its natural fear of people and may result in a dangerous situation for people, pets, and coyotes.

My own city of Calabasas does not trap coyotes and neither does the City of Los Angeles which banned it in 2014. Instead, tonight LA City is offering a wildlife webinar on how to safely coexist. I urge the City of Manhattan Beach to do the same.

Randi Feilich

Humane Policy Volunteer

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