

**Proposed Resolution Concerning Euthanizing Injured Deer for the Austin Animal Advisory Commission, December 11, 2023**

WHEREAS, White-tailed deer are very common, and one of the largest wild animals still found in the Austin Metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, White-tailed deer are a game animal in Texas, and killing, possessing, or transporting them is tightly controlled by Texas State law; and

WHEREAS, White-tailed deer are regularly hit and injured by cars in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, The most severely injured deer usually hide in nearby parkland until they die of their injuries or are eaten by a predator; and

WHEREAS, Citizens occasionally come across these dying deer, and feel a duty to humanely relieve them of their suffering in any way that they can; and

WHEREAS, It is illegal for a citizen to transport or humanely kill the deer; and

WHEREAS, There is currently no timely, efficient, humane, and legal way for such a situation to be easily resolved for these reasons:

- Animal Protection Officers do not respond to wildlife calls unless a citizen is in danger;
- It is not legal for City veterinarians to take euthanasia drugs off-site;
- The Texas State Game Warden is not required to respond to such calls;
- The Austin Park Police cannot usually respond in a timely manner;
- Austin Wildlife Rescue cannot euthanize, treat, or transport adult deer;
- The Austin Police Department cannot currently be called by a citizen if there is no threat to human life or property;
- If the police do answer the call, they need to get special permission to discharge their firearm to humanely kill a severely injured deer, which takes more time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Austin, through the action of the City Council and/or the City Manager, set up a process by which a citizen's call to 311 about a severely injured deer in the City of Austin could result, in a reasonable amount of time, with a response by APD to quickly and humanely euthanize the severely injured deer.