

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM 4/19/2023
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

To the Pasadena City Council Public Safety committee,

My name is Claire Spiegel Brian, 30 year resident at _____ in Pasadena.

Never have we seen so many coyotes in our neighborhood, brazenly entering our (fenced in) backyard during daylight hours. They routinely pass within 6 feet of our kitchen window.

This has put my visiting grandchildren at risk. They are toddlers and vulnerable. Of course, it also prevents us from letting our small Cavalier spaniel outdoors. Our family cannot relax and enjoy our property.

It behooves the city of Pasadena to follow the lead of cities like Torrance to control our booming, aggressive coyote population before, inevitably, a child is attacked.

The argument that selective trapping and euthanizing coyotes results in increased litters is specious and completely unsupported by research.

May this serve as a warning to you that the out-of-control, marauding coyote population in southwest Pasadena needs your attention and action NOW.

Sincerely,

Claire Spiegel Brian

Pasadena, California 91105

Sabha, Tamer

Subject: FW: from Cathy MacVaugh: Important- Comment for Pasadena City Council Public Safety Committee hearing 4 pm. March 15 on the subject of Coyotes

From: Claire Spiegel Brian

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:12 AM

To: Stevenson, Garrett <gstevenson@cityofpasadena.net>; Sabha, Tamer <tsabha@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc:

Subject: from Cathy MacVaugh: Important- Comment for Pasadena City Council Public Safety Committee hearing 4 pm. March 15 on the subject of Coyotes

Please confirm receipt of this message.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Cathy MacVaugh

Subject: Important- Comment for Pasadena City Council Public Safety Committee hearing 4 pm. March 15 on the subject of Coyotes

Date: March 15, 2023 at 9:30:16 AM PDT

To: "Chapman, Justin" <jchapman@cityofpasadena.net>, "Madison, Steve" <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: "Kimiko Bonner, "Nancy & Bill McDonald", Robert Bonner

Steve and Justin,

FYI - please see below email for the public safety meeting.

Nancy McDonald on Bellefontaine street - our next door neighbor has the same issue.

Her children cannot bring their dog when they come to visit due to coyotes entering the yard at all times.

Her grandchildren cannot play in the yard alone.

The coyotes are here all the time - attached is just one recent photo.

Our issue is the front yard & the occasional backyard. We don't have young children but we do have 2 dogs.

The coyotes use the McDonald's front & backyard along with our front yard as their coyote highway.

Best,

Cathy MacVaugh

Sabha, Tamer

From: Robert Bonner

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 10:13 AM

To: Sabha, Tamer <tsabha@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: Claire Spiegel Brian; Steve Madison; Chapman, Justin <jchapman@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Report of South Grand-Covington Place Neighborhood Watch and Coyote Committee

TO: PASADENA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

RE: HEARING ON MARCH 15, 2023

Our Neighborhood Committee was provided materials to see if there were scientific studies that supported the claim by Pasadena Humane that trapping and euthanizing *increases* the coyote population in a given area.

Based on our review of the scientific materials provided, we conclude that no valid scientific studies cited to us support this counter-intuitive claim. We were provided two links that purport to be such studies. The first is a pamphlet put out by the Humane Society of the United States titled *Why killing coyotes doesn't work*. Needless to say, the Humane Society, as the pamphlet itself states, believes that "killing [of coyote] programs . . . are inhumane." So, there is a built-in bias that is evident in the pamphlet. The pamphlet does assert, without citation, that "aggressively controlling" coyotes can increase their reproductive rate by causing larger litters and breeding at an earlier age. At p. 5. However, the Humane Society pamphlet does not cite to any scientific study, much less a study that supports these claims.

The second link is to a very short, 3-page article titled *Project Coyote: Fostering Co-Existence* put out by an organization called "Project Coyote." Under the first heading, "Why Killing Coyotes Doesn't Work," this paper argues that "indiscriminate killing of coyotes . . . work[s] synergistically to increase coyote populations following exploitation events" at p. 1, followed by footnote 5. Footnote 5 cites one study in support of this statement, to wit: F.F. Knowlton's 1972 study titled: "Preliminary interpretations of coyote population mechanics with some management implications." *J. Wildlife Management*. 36:369-382. I read the abstract of the article, which is the only part of this article available online, and while it discusses litter sizes (4.5 to 7) with a 40% mortality rate in the first year, there is nothing in the abstract that supports the assertion that trapping and euthanizing is not effective in reducing the population of coyotes in a given area, such as the Arroyo south of the Colorado Street Bridge.

The Project Coyote article itself misstates the goal when it states: "It's impossible to completely eradicate coyotes from an area." At p. 2. No one disputes that, and this is not the objective. The objective is to decrease the numbers of coyotes, which appear to be increasing in our neighborhood that abuts the Arroyo, at least in and around our South Grand-Covington Place neighborhood and most probably in the area beginning with narrowing of the Arroyo south of the Colorado Street Bridge to the stables in South Pasadena, about 2.5 miles long by ¼ mil wide.

The Project Coyote article loses some credibility when it states that "[c]laims that coyotes attack . . . pets . . . are greatly exaggerated." To the contrary, available data and actual experience would suggest that this is not an uncommon occurrence. The article does provide data that almost 10 people a year are attacked by non-rabid coyotes a year in the U.S. and Canada. So, attacks on

humans are not that rare. One is left to wonder what the number would be if one added the rabid coyote attacks.

Like the Humane Society pamphlet, the article by Project Coyote, a wildlife activist/advocacy organization, has a bias. Both the Humane Society and Project Coyote make clear that it is us humans that are the problem. The article states that it is up to us to “[e]liminate easy food sources, such as . . . supervising pets while outside and keeping cats indoors” P. 3. If only we would be with our dogs at all times when they are in our fenced backyards and never let our cats out, there wouldn’t be this problem of coyotes attacking and eating our pets. Other than having pets, there is no evidence that anyone in our neighbor feeds or has food sources for coyote, yet they roam our streets and backyards freely and in increased numbers.

There is some scientific research regarding coyotes, mainly coyotes in the wild and coyotes that attack sheep. There is some evidence that if there is an abundant food supply that over time the size of the litters may increase, but it is also important to put this in context. According to the scientific papers cited, a pack typically produces one litter a year and the average is between about 4.5 and 7 pups per litter. A pack typically is between 2 and 7 adults, and they are territorial. The statements that coyotes will “quickly” increase if their population is reduced (and food supply thereby increased), is not supported by the science. Moreover, it seems likely that it would take a few years to re-populate, if at all, in an area where there is a periodic program to trap and euthanize.

A 2017 City of Arcadia staff report recites the questionable proposition that trap and euthanize programs increase the coyote population, but mainly it expresses concern that wildlife activists may initiate legal action to block any effort to reduce coyote population, as they did in Arcadia in 2011. That’s what activist organizations do. That does not mean our elected politicians and city officials should cave in because there is the threat of potential legal action.

We also read through the City of Torrance coyote control plan. Unlike the City of Pasadena, it contains the following provision:

“Active Trapping Season

“Annually, coyote trapping season is usually from October to March. In the City of Torrance, trapping will occur year-round in 2022 by actively placing traps in allowable areas within the City’s boundary and euthanize all coyotes caught as legally mandated.”

We request that consideration be given to adding such a provision to the City of Pasadena plan. At the very least, we suggested that this warrants serious public discussion based on facts and without exaggerating the limited scientific understanding of coyote behavior.

Robert Bonner

South Grand – Covington Place Neighborhood

Sabha, Tamer

Subject: Coyote problems

-----Original Message-----

From: judith mcdonald

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 5:22 PM

To: Sabha, Tamer <tsabha@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Coyote problems

We are at . Coyotes frequent our back yard, and when I scream at them and make loud "hazing" sounds, they leap over our fence and into our neighbor's , or vice-versa.

They are brazen, unafraid, and frightening.

There must be something that can be done in addition to the so-called "education program" about how to live with them.

Waiting for a tragedy is not a "program".

Judy McDonald

Sent from my iPhone

Sabha, Tamer

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2023 2:29 PM

To: Sabha, Tamer <tsabha@cityofpasadena.net>; Stevenson, Garrett <gstevenson@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: coyotes

Hello,

A picture is worth a thousand words. My sister had her puppy over a couple of hours ago. We would never leave the puppy alone outside because of the coyote issues, but as soon as my sister left, not 5 minutes later, I looked out the window and saw this adult coyote investigating where the puppy had been. I cannot tell you how many coyotes I have seen in my yard in broad daylight. This is just today. Please do something before a small child gets hurt.



Best Wishes,
Carol Goldthwait

Sabha, Tamer

Subject: RE: Coyotes Southeast Pasadena

From: Diane Sipieter

Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:42 PM

To: Sabha, Tamer <tsabha@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Coyotes Southeast Pasadena

To the Pasadena City Council Public Safety committee

I too am in complete agreement that coyotes have increased greatly in numbers. As they have begun living in properties that are vacant, they have lost their fear of people. You commonly see theme searching prey during the day as hear their howling night, I have several question.

1. Who is collecting data ?
- 2 How many coyotes live here?
- 3 How do you determine that a coyote sighted now, is the same or different one seen later that day?
- 4 Packs of 3, 5-7 adult animals are seen frequently now, how many total?

I apologize for the delay but only heard of this meeting yesterday and it has taken A long time to navigate this system.

Sincerely Diane Sipieter