



Village of Biscayne Park

Commission Agenda Report

Village Commission Meeting Date: October 6, 2016

Subject: Discussion on feral cat issue

Prepared By: Mayor David Coviello

Sponsored By: Commission

Background

Residents have expressed significant concerns regarding the feral cat population in the Village, and its impact on private property, wildlife (including our bird population), and even our property values. Based upon my research, this issue has plagued many communities across the country for many years, and there is no shortage of articles and information offering ideas and solutions.

While there is plenty of information, the most consistent recommendation to help curb the feral cat population is the implementation of a well-organized TNR (trap, neuter and release) program. In addition, however, we need to look at local enforcement of existing regulations (State, County and Village, if any), as well as examine the need for new Village regulations to help combat the problem. Below are topics for discussion:

TNR:

1. What is a TNR program?
2. How is a TNR program implemented?
3. Funds for a TNR program (grants, partner with non-profits)
4. Volunteers critical to assist and monitor program.
5. Legal implications (e.g., can the village trap cats on public property and can private property owners trap cats on their private property).
6. Proper notice to residents prior to TNR event
7. Role of Village staff and whether we have capacity

Code Compliance:

1. What are existing State, County and Village Laws?
2. Educate public on existing laws and issues concerning feral cats

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3. Aggressive code compliance to enforce existing laws (e.g., number of pets per household)
4. Add to list of violations eligible for civil citation under Village's new ordinance
5. Discuss need for amendments to code (e.g., outside feeding, leash law for cats)

Below are links from the web to help aid our discussion.

Links:

<https://www.animallaw.info/article/detailed-discussion-feral-cat-population-control>

<https://www.animallaw.info/article/detailed-discussion-state-cat-laws>

https://www.law.ufl.edu/_pdf/academics/centers-clinics/clinics/conservation/resources/feralcatpresentation.pdf