

LETTER AGAINST LETHAL OPTIONS IN PROPOSED DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

[DATE]

[OFFICIAL'S ADDRESS]

Dear [OFFICIAL], I am a resident of Arlington County and I oppose the lethal options proposed in Parks & Recreation's proposed Deer Management Program. Killing deer doesn't control their populations. Their high reproductive rate will quickly compensate for any deer removed. Each year, Arlington County would need to kill enough deer to significantly reduce the population, and then continue to kill deer to keep the population from bouncing back. Our community will not want to fund this killing program forever.

Killing deer is also impractical. Once the killing starts, deer will move into areas off-limit to hunters, and once it's over, they'll move right back into their original territory - we'll be back to square one! A more effective alternative is a non-lethal deer management plan focused on resolving conflicts with deer, not reducing deer numbers. In the interest of creating a more humane community, I ask that you consider and implement non-lethal methods of deer population control. Your support will show that Arlington County cares about the responsible management of our natural resources and the wildlife that share our neighborhoods. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

[ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION]