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MOTION

The California Department of Fish and Game estimates that there may be up to 750,000 coyotes roaming the State of California. As Spring weather approaches, the prevalence of coyotes in rural and suburban areas of the City has increased, and sightings in urban areas are becoming more common. Coyotes in search of food often prowl residential areas of the City that border open park spaces, hiking trails, and other open areas, including school playgrounds. While coyotes typically pose no threat to humans, these interactions create safety concerns for parents and owners of small pets who are unsure of the coyotes' aggressiveness.

Prior to 1994, the Animal Services Department routinely trapped and euthanized coyotes, however that practice has stopped based on recent studies on coyote behavior and new laws pertaining to trapping. Animal Services now works with residents to modify human behaviors that often inadvertently encourage coyotes by providing food, water and cover. Coyotes are attracted to areas with lush landscaping, thick vegetation and brush, fruit trees and garden vegetables, ponds, fountains, bird feeders that attracts rodents, and even compost piles. Despite the efforts of the Department of Animal Services, problems with coyotes persist in City neighborhoods and, based on anecdotal evidence, seem to have gotten worse as coyotes are routinely seen during daylight hours in open spaces and park areas, raising concerns about potential attacks on children and small pets.

The City Council should immediately review the Animal Services Department's Coyote Management Programs to ensure that the department is prioritizing resident's safety through deterrence of these wild animals in our neighborhoods, in addition to the Department's efforts to educate residents about coyote behavior.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Department of Animal Services to report on or before July 1, 2016 with a detailed plan on the Department's Coyote Management Program, resources that are currently deployed to implement that program, and recommendations for improvements to that Program that will further control the coyote population in the City's residential neighborhoods, including any ordinances or City policies that will support this effort.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

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MAY 24 2016

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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