Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the City Council:

SUBJECT: Police – Receive and File Status Report on Coyote Activity
Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council receive and file status report on
Coyote activity.

UPDATE ON COYOTE ACTIVITY

During the City Council meeting of July 17, 2018, during the Oral Communication portion of the
meeting, Councilmember Mattucci made the following request for information.

Request #1 – Provide information on when the City began tracking the coyote problem.

- The Torrance Police Department (TPD) began tracking coyote activity in early 2016
  following reports of foxes being killed by coyotes at the Torrance Airport. Additionally,
  there were increased reports of coyotes killing household pets.

Request #2 – Provide information on coyote sightings and what is being done with the
information.

- TPD began collecting data on coyote sightings and consulted with the experts at
  California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for direction and training on state
  laws and regulations regarding coyotes. CDFW representatives worked closely with
  TPD staff.

- In March 2016, TPD released a Press Release to inform our citizens of the issue as well
  as to request that coyote sightings be reported to Animal Control. TPD created an
  Information Bulletin and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet that was distributed
  via TPD Social Media and TorranceAlerts - websites listed below:

  www.facebook.com/TorrancePD
  www.instagram.com/torrancepolice/
  www.youtube.com/TPDCommAffairs
  www.Twitter.com/TorrancePD
  www.torranceca.gov/government/city-manager/torrancealerts
To give residents a variety of avenues to report coyote sightings, TPD created a "Report Coyote Activity" icon on the TPD Mobile App (available for download on Google and Apple) to allow residents to submit a report directly from their smartphone. With the information on sightings coming in, TPD collaborated with Communications and Information Technology (CIT) to create a coyote activity map. Additionally, a "Living with urban coyotes" webpage was created and added to the City of Torrance website. The information included on this page is regularly updated. TPD then conducted extensive educational outreach to the community that included high-sighting areas.

The Torrance Police Department collaborated with CDFW, the Humane Society of Washington D.C. and Humane Wildlife Control to create an Urban Coyote Management Plan for the City of Torrance. During the City Council meeting on June 14, 2016, a "Coyote Workshop" was conducted and presented, and City Council voted to approve the implementation of the Urban Coyote Management Plan.

In September of 2016, TPD implemented a Coyote Management Team. The team included members of TPD, the City of Torrance Sanitation Department and City of Torrance Park Services.

On February 7, 2017, TPD provided City Council with an update on the Urban Coyote Management Plan. During that meeting, it was recommended that a new interactive map be created. The new map is active and updated; however, staff is continually working to update the usability of the map.

TPD continues to monitor all coyote sightings that are reported. Based on the information reported, staff formulates their response and strategies in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the City Council approved Urban Coyote Management Plan.

**Request #3 – Provide information on the total number of household pets killed by coyotes.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>June 2016 – May 2017</th>
<th>June 2017 – May 2018</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sightings</td>
<td>932</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>-61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs attacked</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs killed</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats attacked</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cats killed</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>-41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Request #4 – Provide information on what was done with information gathered by GPS systems that were attached to a smaller number of coyotes.**

TPD has applied to be a part of a Global Positioning System (GPS) study being conducted by the University of California's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) and County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures. The study has yet to begin due to state and federal permits still being acquired. To date, no coyotes in Torrance have been tracked or have had a GPS device attached to them. It is estimated that the study will begin within the next three months.
Request #5 – Provide estimates as to how many coyotes are currently in Torrance, and how many have been in the City historically.

- TPD does not have present or past estimates of the number of coyotes in the City of Torrance. There is currently no system in place that can assist in an estimation of this nature.

Request #6 – Provide an update on the number of coyotes that have been tracked and euthanized.

- The Torrance Police Department is not aware of any coyotes that have been tracked in the City of Torrance. Upon request from TPD, a contract company trapped and euthanized one coyote in 2016. Additionally, an unknown number of coyotes have been euthanized in Torrance by L.A. County personnel on L.A. County property. However, since August 7, 2018, L.A. County personnel have trapped and euthanized seven coyotes in Torrance, on L.A. County property.

Request #7 – Provide any updates in County, State and/or Federal procedures and restrictions.

- There have been no recent changes to state laws pertaining to coyotes.

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING

Staff will return on Tuesday, November 27th to provide a comprehensive report on the coyote management program, which will include a recommendation from TPD on the Urban Coyote Management Plan moving forward, a review of coyote management by other cities, lessons learned and options for Council to consider.

Respectfully submitted,

EVE R IRVINE
CHIEF OF POLICE

By: Captain Mark Underwood
Special Operations Bureau

Attachment A: Public Comments Received on Coyote Activity
From: Jennifer Dobos  
Date: 8/4/18 5:28 PM (GMT-08:00)  
To: "Furey, Pat" <PFurey@TorranceCA.gov>, "Chen, George" <GChen@TorranceCA.gov>, "Goodrich, Tim" <TGoodrich@TorranceCA.gov>, "Griffiths, Mike" <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.gov>, "Herring, Milton" <MHerring@TorranceCA.gov>, "Mattucci, Aurelio" <AMattucci@TorranceCA.gov>, "Rizzo, Geoffrey" <GRizzo@TorranceCA.gov>  
Subject: Coyotes in our City, Enough is Enough

I spoke at the last council meeting. How long are you, our elected officials, going to continue to let the coyote population grow and hold those who know about them be held hostage with their pets in their homes, and those who don't, find fluffy mauled on their lawn?

Mayor, your continued lack of concern and complete disrespect towards people who speak about them continues to amaze me. I have watched you actually mock members of our community.. It is time to actually do something. There has been plenty of city money spent handing out flyers, coloring books, getting a crappy app made (Sargent Koenig says he does not get all of the info needed for the City map from this app) and our city map that does not appear to be updated regularly.

We have the police managing wild animals.. how does that even make sense? Seems like an expensive group for what currently is just data entry!

The city does not have 1 clear point of contact for people to report. Heck, even the City map gives 3 options and the 3 do not even communicate with each other! I personally have had 2 of my 3 reports not even logged! (yes, I check back)

I run a Facebook group page and keep a map of sightings. I started it back in September of 2016. We are now almost 1500 strong. I was going to stop logging on it when the city finally got something that was decent. I didn't right away because I wanted to make sure the city was diligent in the reporting and logging. Unfortunately I am not able to stop logging on our map, I don't feel the city map is getting all of the reported data.

Beyond data.. It is time to follow what the city laid out way back when. I have not heard of 1 time ANYONE going out for the area assessment as outlined when a pet is killed. See attachment. Why??

Time to start trapping in areas that are out of control.

You are our elected City officials. I do not want to hear any longer 'it is a state issue, our hands are tied'. If that is the case, DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE IT. We elected you! Protect us and our loved ones!
1:30ish am, 8 coyotes were recorded in the sump across from Lego Segos. Yes, it was the middle of the night, yes, they were in the sump... the problem is they were in a PACK OF EIGHT! THEY ARE GROWING AND TRAVELING IN PACKS NOW

link of the video: https://youtu.be/HAG642t3lWc

I downloaded and am attaching all logged sightings from the city page, named CITY OF TORRANCE Coyote Incidents - 2018, all sightings attacks and kills reported and logged from our facebook group named Our Map July 2018 map, everything ever logged on our map named all sightings from our map and finally the cities outline for action if a situation happens, that has not been followed.

I intend to speak again at the next meeting, and the next. I hope that the 3 who do not think the coyotes are a problem take a better look. they are.

I hope to hear from you in response to this email,

Respectfully,

Jennifer Dobos-Bubno

Jacqueline Guy

New Member · 23 hrs

So at 1am this morning, my ring camera saw a coyote on my front porch. It was sniffing the exact spot that my cat they killed last week.

Sandra Goetz, Sharon Pizzulli and 29 others · 15 Comments

Like Comment

View 9 more comments
Marsha Bannon
August 9 at 6:19 PM

This morning at 234th and Ocean at 5:45 AM, a Coyote came up behind me about 10 feet away... I ran at it and yelled, so it went around me (within 10 feet because I was at my friends driveway at that time). The coyote stopped and looked back at me like it was going to run at me! I yelled at it again and it just kept staring (probably 20' away). I have to say that I was pretty scared although I hear that they supposedly don't attack humans! Finally a car came around the corner and the coyote ran off!
Yes I did notify TPD and also notified them about the 2 coyotes behind my house at 3:00 in morning....I thought one was dead as he was lying down and the other one was licking him...wishful thinking as they both ran off after about 5 mins!

From: Jennifer PDB <JenPDB2010@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 11, 2018 10:42 AM
To: Koenig, David; Furey, Pat; Chen, George; Goodrich, Tim; Griffiths, Mike; Herring, Milton; Mattucci, Aurelio; Rizzo, Geoffrey
Subject: Now what?? Coyote Problem

According to the attached City Plan, are you not supposed to now do something?

I hope for an emailed response to my question,

Thank you

From: Judith Simmons <Judith.Simmons@torrance.ca.us>
Date: 8/12/18 10:45 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Furey, Pat" <PFurey@TorranceCA.gov>, "Chen, George" <GChen@TorranceCA.gov>, "Goodrich, Tim" <TGoodrich@TorranceCA.gov>, "Griffiths, Mike" <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.gov>, "Herring, Milton" <MHerring@TorranceCA.gov>, "Rizzo, Geoffrey" <GRizzo@TorranceCA.gov>, "Mattucci, Aurelio" <AMattucci@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Coyotes

As your constituent from West Torrance I am extremely concerned with the brazen, morphed behaviors of the coyotes living and hunting in our neighborhoods. These habituated coyotes are out of balance with nature and have no predators to limit their numbers. They have adapted to
life in our urban environment and are born into families that have never feared humans. They pose a threat to our children and have killed many family pets. Intervention per the Torrance Coyote Management Plan needs to take place immediately. 
Sincerely, Judith Simmons 

Torrance, California 90503.

From: Marla Shwartz
Sent: Sunday, August 12, 2018 1:13 PM
To: Furey, Pat; Chen, George; Goodrich, Tim; Griffiths, Mike; Herring, Milton; grizzo@torranceca.com; Mattucci, Aurelio
Subject: coyote/predators in our neighborhoods

Dear Torrance Mayor and Councilmen,

Please eliminate the coyote/predators from our neighborhoods. They are killing our pets and they are a horrible nuisance. I know that if I were to notify Animal Control of a loose dog in our neighborhood there would be a timely response to catch the dog, identify it, and then dispose of it or return it to its owner. I ask the same regarding the coyote/predators. They are roaming our backyards and streets with the intention of killing our pets, no other reason. This is not a situation of coexistence since we Torrance residents are always the loser and the coyote/predators always win; this is not an example of coexistence, it's the worst kind of dominance.

Thank you for your attention and action in this matter.

Marla Shwartz

From: Jacque Gomez <[redacted]>
Date: 8/14/18 12:01 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Furey, Pat" <PFurey@TorranceCA.gov>, "Chen, George" <GChen@TorranceCA.gov>, "Goodrich, Tim" <TGoodrich@TorranceCA.gov>, "Griffiths, Mike" <MGriffiths@TorranceCA.gov>, "Herring, Milton" <MHerring@TorranceCA.gov>, "Rizzo, Geoffrey" <GRizzo@TorranceCA.gov>, AMattucci@TorranceCA.Gov
Subject: City of Torrance - COYOTE PROBLEM

I am writing this email because I am afraid for my families safety with regards to the Coyotes!

Our family has owed property in Torrance for years, we are very concerned about the increase in coyote sightings and attacks that are occurring in our neighborhoods.

The Torrance residence are coming together and sharing information which has really opened everyone's eyes to the severity of the coyote problem.

City of Torrance what measure are you taking to protect the residence and their pets? Are you waiting for one of our children/grandchildren to be attacked?
From: Ricki Decker
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:05 AM
To: Furey, Pat; Chen, George; Goodrich, Tim; Mattucci, Aurelio; Herring, Milton; Griffiths, Mike; Rizzo, Geoffrey; Poirier, Rebecca; Cortez, Dana; Sullivan, Patrick; Jackson, LeRoy; Irvine, Eve
Subject: safety

I am very concerned about the health and safety of our residents and our domestic pets. Since my first sighting of a coyote walking down Nadine Circle at 1:15pm November 2015, the problem has only escalated.

The coyotes have been breeding and breeding multiplying like crazy, attacking dogs and cats on a regular basis. Obviously the plan the city implemented a few years ago is NOT working, and really isn't even being followed. They have been sighted near schools, and school is about to start up again.

These urban coyotes do not behave like they would in their natural environment. They have become totally habituated to our area, and are not afraid of humans at all.

What is it going to take for you to step up and begin an aggressive approach to eliminating as many coyotes as possible?? Is it going to take a small child being attacked? Look at the size of some of our kindergartners and tell me a large coyote wouldn't dare to attack them! Will it take an older woman walking her dog in New Horizons either falling or being attacked while trying to save her pet??

I have personally had a German Shepherd sized coyote right next to a small fence around my patio, looking in at my small dog inside the house. The coyote was not fazed at all by my dog barking, nor by my hazing it from inside the house two feet away from it.

I have always boasted about what a great city Torrance is to live in, and I have been here for the most part since 1957. I have always felt they had the interest of the public at heart and did their very best to protect our citizens. Now, I am truly disappointed.

I know this lack of action is not due to our fine police department....their hands are tied by city officials. Please keep in mind myself and the other residents of Torrance pay substantial property taxes to live here. Neither Project Coyote or PETA can say the same.

It is time for more action on your part!

Respectfully,
Ricki Decker
--------- Original message ---------
From: Judith Simmons <J Simmons@TorranceCA.gov>
Date: 9/3/18 1:02 AM (GMT-08:00)
To: "Furey, Pat"<PFurey@TorranceCA.gov>, "Chen, George"<GChen@TorranceCA.gov>, "Goodrich, Tim"<TGoodrich@TorranceCA.gov>, "Griffiths, Mike"<MGriffiths@TorranceCA.gov>, "Herring, Milton"<MHerring@TorranceCA.gov>, "Mattucci, Aurelio"<AMattucci@TorranceCA.gov>, "Rizzo, Geoffrey"<GRizzo@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Coyote pack kills animal

My peaceful Sunday Labor Day weekend was quickly filled with alarm at 9:00 pm when the coyote howling started and a pack of coyote's killed an animal at Palos Verdes Blvd. and Steveanne in Torrance. You cannot "unhear" that horrible, desperate scream of a dying animal! Please begin the coyote culling process at the water basin behind Bishop Montgomery High School in the West Southwood homes area.

Sincerely, Judith Simmons
Torrance, California
90503

I've see the City coyote map you have and it is not current or accurate, so many sightings and attacks are missing from this map.

The coyotes have becoming habitual they are no longer afraid of us, the hazing doesn't work anymore. They will still follow us with no fear!

Please let me know what your plans are to protect your tax paying residence.

Jacquie Gomez

From: Chris Mann <CMann@TorranceCA.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 1, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Furey, Pat; Chen, George; Goodrich, Tim; Griffiths, Mike; Herring, Milton; Mattucci, Aurelio; Rizzo, Geoffrey
Subject: [Action Requested] More Frequent Coyote Sightings & Incidents in Seaside

Esteemed Members of Torrance City Government -

I am writing to you with the hopes of lobbying support. I moved to Seaside from North Torrance in April 2018. Since we arrived, we have had several (read: 4) run ins with coyotes in the area. I grew up in a rural area of the San Fernando Valley where we co-existed with coyotes, and (generally speaking) I'm not affected by or scared of these animals. This all changed when we moved to Seaside.
The urban coyotes in this area are aggressive, unafraid and becoming more and more emboldened. Sightings in plain daylight, at local parks where children play, in my own backyard and all throughout the neighborhood seem to be increasing steadily month over month. I am feeling more and more nervous about the daily morning walk I take before work with my infant son and 25 lb dog. I spotted two large (>50lbs) coyotes this morning in the wash who stalked us for nearly 2 blocks. THIS IS NOT NORMAL!

THE ASK: I implore you all, please review and update the urban coyote management program to prevent / reduce attacks on humans and pets.

Neighborhood groups throughout Torrance are coming together, getting organized and will continue pushing this message until you take action. I do not want my pet companion of 10 years or my 10 month old child to be penalized by your lack of attention to an increasingly and potentially dangerous situation. I will be at the next Torrance City Council coming up on September 18 to show support with our neighbors on this matter.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter. Let's work together to continue to make Torrance the best city in the South Bay!

Best Regards,
Chris Mann

In the event you or your staff would like to contact me to discuss further:
Chris Mann

Torrance, CA 90505

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From: Barbara LaChance [mailto:blank]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Chen, George
Cc: 'Barbara LaChance'
Subject: Coyotes

Hello Councilmember Chen –
I am sending this message to all of Torrance City Council members. I am a resident of San Pedro and a member of Nextdoor. The issue of coyotes has come up often (I know the Torrance City Council had coyote representatives speak at a past Council meeting). Recently it has become more urgent and strident (my Nextdoor neighborhood includes San Pedro and RPV) and I'm feeling that people's tolerance is wearing thin. I am a coyote advocate, in favor of relocating them to their natural environment (yes I know that Calif law prevents relocation but I believe the law must change in order to save the coyotes). That said, I have been in contact with Rebecca Dmytryk, CEO of Humane Wildlife Control. She will be doing a presentation to the San Gabriel City Council tonight and can be booked to come to a Torrance City Council meeting if desired. I think that offering resources to residents will take some of the pressure off of the desire to just catch and kill. RPV has a similar issue and similar views by its residents. As a starting point,
please go to the San Gabriel City website and see how they are dealing with coyotes. Their link, Inside San Gabriel has an ad for the coyote presentation tonight September 4th, and has a link to a coyote resource page with information on how to co-exist with coyotes. Please be proactive in dealing with this before residents, seeing no action, start killing the coyotes by whatever means they have at hand.

Barbara La Chance

From: dtippiel <[redacted]>
Date: September 6, 2018 at 10:53:56 AM PDT
To: PFurey@torranceca.gov
Subject: Re: Coyotes

Hi,

I wanted to follow up with this.

On Fri, Aug 24, 2018 at 9:16 AM dtippiel <[redacted]> wrote:
Hi Mr. Furey,

Yesterday around 8 PM there was a large coyote on the corner of 228th Place and Madison. This concerns me since I have a 1 year old daughter. What is the city doing to address the problem?

Thanks,

Donnie

On Sep 4, 2018, at 11:01 AM, Anne Watson <[redacted]> wrote:

Hi Mayor,

We live right behind Mirlo Gate Tower, on the border of Torrance and PV estates. Our neighbors showed us pix of coyotes caught with their outdoor cameras a couple of weeks ago and then, this morning at around 6am, my husband spotted one coming from the main street of Via Valmonte, across our driveway, back towards their house.

On one hand, I am sympathetic to the coyotes, because I know they are simply trying to survive like all animals. On the other, I fear that it is a bit dangerous – particularly for my boy cat who tends to get out of our yard on occasion and I have found him in the canyon behind my neighbors house where the coyotes must live.

I am a bit concerned and would like to know what the city is doing in regards to the coyotes.

Anne Watson