

Council Agenda Report

Date: February 27, 2016

Prepared by: Ginger Heatwole

Submitted by: Sandra Tripp-Jones

SUBJECT: Deterring raccoons and vultures

Recommendation: That Council receive the report and provide direction to staff.

Discussion:

As directed at the January 22, 2017 meeting, staff has continued to explore options on containing the raccoon and buzzard/vulture problem. Staff met with Bay Area Pest and Wildlife Solutions, LLC to discuss specifics on how this could practically occur. As background, legally a raccoon removed by Bay Area must be euthanized. Vultures on the other hand are a protected species and can only be deterred from landing on a building.

Bay Area would only work with the City on City owned property. This is for 2 reasons. One, if the City were to pay for removal of wildlife from private residences, the costs would potentially be exorbitant to the City and the work more than Bay Area would handle. Two, this is not a common practice for municipalities and homeowner associations. The municipalities and HOAs that Bay Area works with only contract for removal on City owned property or common area property. This is what they are willing to do with the City of Cambridge. At the same time, they recognize that there is a need in Cambridge and want to help out residences. They are willing to extend their discounted rate to private citizens.

Bay Area does not want a yearly contract as they are unsure what the demand to capture raccoons and deter vultures would be. They have suggested a reduced per call fee. For raccoons, that would be a 25% discount off the original costs of \$395/3-day trap or \$295/3-day trap. For birds, it is more complicated. They can place various deterrents at a reduced price starting at \$15/ft. on roofs. For private property owners, they would charge the same rate of \$295/3-day trap for raccoons.

In a discussion with Staff, we have had minimal issues with raccoons and vultures on City owned property. In 10 years, there have been about 5 cases of a raccoon on City property. The costs then for a year could be budgeted at \$1000.

Fiscal Impact: The budget for next year could include \$1000 for the removal of raccoons and vultures on City owned property.

Approved: 