




# SHAKER HEIGHTS

## Memorandum

To: Members of Safety & Public Works Committee  
Members of Wildlife Task Force

From: Jeffrey N. DeMuth, Chief of Police 

cc: Mayor David E. Weiss  
Chief Administrative Officer Jeri E. Chaikin  
Director of Law William Gruber  
Director of Finance Frank Brichacek

Date: September 26, 2019

Re: Precision Wildlife Management LTD Contract  
2019-2020 Deer Management Program

---

On September 6, 2019, the Precision Wildlife Management LTD proposal was presented to members of the Safety and Public Works Committee. There was a significant amount of discussion on issues related to culling on private property. The following was discussed:

- A committee member asked about private property culling and if we were seeking permission from a property owner. It was explained that Precision Wildlife Management LTD would only approach residents who requested they be contacted for private property culling on the resident questionnaire, or who had independently reached out to the City or Precision Wildlife Management LTD requesting culling be done on their property. It was further explained that private property protocols have been developed. Those protocols call for a member of Precision Wildlife Management LTD to also contact the property owners on either side and to the rear of the property owner who requested the culling. All of those property owners would have to agree with the culling. If one of the adjacent property owners disagreed with the process, culling would not be conducted on this particular parcel of private property.
- A committee member asked if we had sought permission to cull on non-residential private property. It was explained that last year we inquired with the Shaker Heights Country Club concerning deer culling on their property. They declined the request for deer culling on their property. No other non-residential private property owners have been approached about deer culling.
- A committee member voiced their concerns over deer culling on small private property lots and that minimum lot sizes should be established. It was explained that the private property protocols do not indicate minimum lot size requirements. There are other factors than lot size that have to be considered when culling on private property, and those factors are taken into consideration by members of Precision Wildlife Management LTD when assessing certain private property lots to cull on.



**CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS | Police**

3355 Lee Road Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120 P 216.491.1220 F 216.491.1224 Ohio Relay Service 711  
[shakeronline.com](http://shakeronline.com) [www.shaker.life](http://www.shaker.life)

After discussion, the proposal from Precision Wildlife Management LTD to cull on both public and private property was supported by a majority vote of the members of the Safety and Public Works Committee.

As a result of this meeting and other conversations, there seemed to be a misunderstanding by Safety and Public Works Committee and Wildlife Task Force members about where private property deer culling would be performed during the first year of an approved program. In fact, it is clear that I failed to clearly convey our first-year plan to cull on private property. The purpose of this memorandum is to clearly state the plan for culling on private property, if approved, during the first year. Furthermore, this memorandum also reiterates the Precision Wildlife Management LTD "Precision Wildlife" proposal which states:

- If Precision Wildlife is permitted to cull deer on private property, the contract price is \$58,000.
- If Precision Wildlife is not permitted to cull deer on private property and authorized to cull only on public lands, the contract price is \$68,000.

Upon seeking authorization for private property culling, we had lengthy and detailed conversations with Precision Wildlife concerning protocols. It was important that, if authorized, the private property culling program was successful. Adding to the complexity of the issue was the fact that we understood private property culling WAS NOT unanimously accepted by residents within our community. But, private property culling is necessary for the overall and on-going success of the deer culling program. Therefore, it is recommended for the first year of private property culling to focus on large tracts of privately owned land. Large tracts of land provided the following benefits:

- Easier to bait and draw in deer;
- Safer;
- More efficient;
- Minimal chance of the harvest being seen;
- Easy to remove the "Culling Signature" once the deer carcass is removed.

In addition and due to the fact that culling on private property is a controversial issue, it is in the program's best interest to start on tracts of land that will provide our best opportunity for success. Showing a track record of success on private property is essential for the overall deer culling program. Conversely, if we are able to assess that culling on large tracts of privately owned property is NOT successful, it would provide evidence for the City to not move forward with the program on smaller tracts of privately owned land. It would not make sense.

As noted in our protocols, a Precision Wildlife team member will conduct a safety site assessment on the prospective private property locations. The assessment will include ensuring that the location has proper topography and size to support harvesting deer safely. It has been stated in previous meetings that we can safely cull deer on any private property parcel in Shaker Heights. Unfortunately, harvesting the deer does not, by itself, define success for a private property program. The other factors mentioned above should also be considered.

Based on the above, it is recommended that the Safety and Public Works Committee and the Wildlife Task Force support the Precision Wildlife Management LTD contract for \$58,000 which provides for deer culling on private property. It is also recommended that the Safety and Public Works Committee and Wildlife Task Force support the first year pilot program of private property

culling on large tracts of land. It is further recommended that this item be forwarded to the Finance and Administration Committee and City Council with a recommendation for approval.

JND:sko

Enclosure: Private Property Deer Culling Protocols

## Private Property Deer Culling Protocols

1. The goal is to select private property sites where deer can be harvested safely, humanely and discretely in an effort to meeting the City's deer management goals.
2. As a service to residents, the City will offer culling on private property as a pilot program in 2019/2020 to those owners who request it. Only large tracts of land will be considered for the first year pilot program private property culling.
3. Prospective landowners wishing to participate in the deer management program will be contacted by a Precision Wildlife Management Team member to discuss the process.
4. A Precision Wildlife Management Team member will conduct a safety site assessment on the prospective location. The assessment will include ensuring that the location has proper topography and size to support harvesting deer safely.
5. Neighbors directly next to and to the rear of the prospective location will be contacted and advised of the landowner's intentions of participating in the deer management program.
  - a. All neighbors (As described above) will be provided a written notice describing the deer management program as well as the culling operations on private property and will be provided a phone number of a Precision Wildlife Management Team member to call with any concerns.
6. The Precision Team will discuss the program with the landowner as well as the neighbors directly next to and to the rear of the landowner's property to ensure they are aware of how operations will be conducted and will address any concerns. All will be given the option of being notified when Precision will be on the property culling.
  - a. If any neighbor directly next to or to the rear of the landowner's property to be used for culling objects to the culling, culling will not be conducted on the private property identified
7. Target engagements will be conducted from elevated positions predominately from a truck but could include other elevated options.
8. The location will be baited on a regular basis and trail cameras will be set up overlooking the bait site.
9. The landowner will be requested to provide written permission per law to allow Precision to harvest on their property.