



CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

March 19, 2007

TO: Phillip L. Nelson, City Manager

FROM: Charles T. Craft, Chief of Police
Lieutenant Chuck Pappas

SUBJECT: Michigan Department of Natural Resources Canada
Goose Roundup and Nest Destruction Programs

Background:

- High numbers of geese in shallow water areas can elevate bacteria levels via fecal coli form making the water unsafe for swimming.
- Geese can demonstrate aggressive behavior towards people while defending their nesting territory.
- Several small bodies of water exist in Troy, both public and private, on which Canadian Geese congregate.
- Each year the Police Department receives complaints relating to the presence of Canadian Geese and inquiries as to what can be done to abate the problem.
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends that the geese either be gathered for relocation, or that their nests be destroyed as methods of controlling the geese.
- A DNR permit is required to allow for the roundup of geese and/or the destruction of nests.
- The current DNR permit allowing for Canada Goose Roundup and Nest Destruction in Troy will expire on May 8, 2007.
- A Resolution by the City of Troy Council or a petition from affected residents is necessary to apply for a 5-year permit.
- The Resolution by City Council expedites the procedure for obtaining a permit. Without Council action, residents are required to circulate a petition and gather signatures from residents who are affected by the problems relating to the excessive Canada goose population.

Financial Considerations:

- There is no cost related to this issue for the City of Troy.

Legal Considerations:

- The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects Canada Geese.
- The rounding up of Canadian Geese and/or the destruction of nests with goose eggs present requires a DNR permit.

- The permit allows private property owners to hire a state certified private contractor to provide the service, and authorizes trained city employees or DNR employees to conduct roundups/nest destruction on public property.

Policy Considerations:

- City Goal #1: Enhance the livability and safety of the community.

Options:

- Approve the RESOLUTION as requested.