



February 9, 2023

## **STATEMENT REGARDING TRAPPING INCIDENT ON FEBRUARY 6**

Over the last year and a half, Mission Hills and our neighboring communities have received reports of multiple pets killed or injured by coyotes. One pet was killed in a resident's back yard. We have reports from walkers that coyotes have followed them and their pets during walks. There have also been multiple reports of coyote attacks on children in cities around the country over the last year. Based on these incidents within the City and surrounding areas, and throughout the country, our residents are alarmed and have expressed urgent concerns about the threat posed by the presence of coyotes in Mission Hills.

With public safety as our primary concern and after consulting with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and trapping professionals, the City began trapping to remove aggressive coyotes from our urban community. We will continue to do so safely in accordance with the recommendations published by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks which can be found at <https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Wildlife-Damage-Control/Coyotes-in-the-City>. The City successfully trapped and removed two coyotes in the last year.

Per City ordinance, in order to do any trapping in City limits, signage is required on the grounds directly where the trapping will occur and must be posted for seven days prior to the commencement of any trapping. The City placed five signs in Peetwood Park around the trapping location on January 26, 2023 at approximately 9:45am. The signs state: "Nuisance Animal Trapping in Progress, Please contact City Hall for more information, 913-362-9620." The signs were placed on all sides of the trapping location seven days prior to setting the traps. Access to the remote trapping site at Peetwood Park would require walking past one or more of these signs. The City also mailed written notices of the planned trapping to nearby property owners and installed multiple cameras to monitor the site.

Despite these precautions, two off-leash dogs were caught in non-lethal traps at Peetwood Park on February 6, 2023 at approximately 5:20pm. City staff and Animal Control arrived on scene just under 20 minutes after being alerted to the dogs being trapped and the dogs were immediately released. In addition to ordinances that regulate trapping, the City has leash laws in place in an effort to prevent unfortunate incidents such as this from occurring.

For any additional questions, please contact City Hall at 913-362-9620.