

## **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

### ***Police Committee***

#### **Issue Briefing**

**Topic:** Deer Hunting in Township Parks

**Prepared By:** Michael J. McGrath, Superintendent of Police

**Date:** September 7, 2018

- I. **Action To Be Considered By The Board:** Authorize members of the public and off-duty Lower Merion Township police officers as approved and registered with the Police Superintendent to hunt deer in Township parks in full compliance with all Pennsylvania Game Commission regulations and clearances.
- II. **Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** The Township is required to increase public participation in hunting in order to reduce the deer population and to be approved for authorization to conduct the deer culling program in the 2018-2019 season.
- III. **Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):** Any hunting in Township parks requires authorization by the Board of Commissioners.
- IV. **Other Relevant Background Information:** The Township was denied a special deer culling permit in 2016 when the PA Game Commission determined inadequate park property was made available for hunting. The special deer culling permit was approved for the 2017-2018 season when registered off-duty Lower Merion Police Officers were approved to hunt deer in Township parks.

In order to continue obtaining an annual culling permit for the 2018-2019 season the Game Commission is requiring that all parks be once again listed as available for archery bow hunting but now by both off duty police officers and public hunters who would be approved by the Police Department Superintendent. We have interest from experienced hunters and organized bow hunting clubs that will allow us to still control who, where and when hunters are engaged in designated parks.

PA Game Commission clearance provisions for public hunting include 50 yards from an occupied residence for archery, 150 yards from a playground, school or daycare center and 25 yards from traveled roads.

- V. **Impact On Township Finances:** The Township budgets a small amount annually for the deer culling program.

- VI. **Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners authorize members of the public and off-duty Lower Merion Township police officers as registered and approved by the Police Superintendent to hunt deer in Township parks in full compliance with all PA Game Commission regulations and clearances.