

RESOLUTION NO. 1899

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA
ADOPTING AN ANIMAL CONFLICT PREVENTION AND REDUCTION POLICY

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia Falls has had an increase in animal conflicts, particularly with respect to bear activity within and around the City including significant bear sightings and problems with bears and other animals being attracted to pet food, fruit trees, garbage and waste stored outdoors; and

Whereas, the City of Columbia Falls adopted Emergency Ordinance No. 820 in September, 2022 as a direct result of increased reporting of animal conflict and activity; and

Whereas, the City of Columbia Falls City Council held a public hearing after giving proper public notice to discuss on-going and permanent animal conflict prevention measures on Monday, May 15, 2023 at a Regular City Council Meeting; and

Whereas, at the conclusion of the public hearing, the City Council declared their intent to work with MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the People and Carnivores organizations to educate the residents and visitors in the community to reduce and prevent animal conflict, protect the public and resolve frequent encounters with bear and other animals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA:

Section One. The City Council of the City of Columbia Falls hereby declares their intent to encourage residents, associations of residents, and business owners of Columbia Falls to practice prevention measures to reduce animal conflicts within the City Limits. Such preventative measures include:

- a. Properly securing and storing domestic animal food overnight;
- b. Properly storing all garbage and recycling indoors, in animal resistant containers, or secured at curbside placement areas;
- c. Remove ripe fruit from trees and areas around trees that are accessed by bears and other animals. Do not deliberately leave fruit or other food for animals;
- d. Store garbage roll out indoors until morning of scheduled pick up; and,
- e. Secure chicken coops and other small livestock such as apiaries, and add scare devices, electric fence, if needed to deter bear activity.

Section Two. The City Council declares their intent to work on education efforts with People and Carnivores as well as working on an assessment of problem areas and assist with appropriate prevention measures.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THIS 5th DAY OF JUNE, 2023, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Piper, Shepard, Fisher, Hamilton, Lovering, Robinson and Barnhart
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THIS 5th DAY OF JUNE 2023.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Definition: “animal resistant container” is a fully enclosed container certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGB), Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), or the City. The lid must have a latching mechanism to prevent access of the contents by bears.