

Ausma Malik

Deputy Mayor & City Councillor for Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

May 6, 2025

RE: EC20.4 Downtown Coyote Action Plan

Dear Economic and Community Development Committee members,

Since the trees came down at Ontario Place last October, coyotes have been displaced into our downtown communities, with limited green spaces, and have been interacting with residents and pets with higher frequency, severity and in some cases, heartbreaking consequences.

Because of the lack of an Environmental Assessment by the Provincial government for the Ontario Place redevelopment that could have allowed for better preparation by the City and community for its impacts, we are now facing rising public safety issues in Liberty Village and Fort York.

Downtown residents are worried — for their pets, themselves, and their community — and rightfully so. They deserve to be able to enjoy their neighbourhood without fearing a run in with a coyote.

In my downtown communities in Spadina-Fort York, Ward 10, there were 32 coyote-related service requests in November and 22 in December. This is a marked departure from the norm — previous months in 2024 saw an average of 3 to 4 service requests. And just four months into 2025, Ward 10 has already received **104 coyote-related service requests**. For comparison, Parkdale-High Park and Etobicoke Centre are second and third highest with **23 and 20 coyote-related service requests** so far, respectively. This is in addition to carefully compiled community data based on information and incident sharing among residents, which I have shared with City staff as well.

This is an unprecedented coyote situation in Toronto's downtown neighbourhoods. Since coming to my attention, I have worked to engage the community and mobilize City staff who have taken important actions to immediately address the situation, including to:

- Be present on the ground, avert coyotes, and do public education
- Remove waste and food sources
- Fix fencing and improve lighting & signage
- Get expert advice to create clear escalation protocols and ensure staff has all the information and tools they need to take action.

These important efforts move closer to resolution, and more still needs to be done.

In February, I intensified the call for City staff to resolve this issue and City Council adopted my recommendation to develop the targeted Downtown Coyote Action Plan that is before the Committee. This Action Plan will ensure that there are clear protocols and resources in place for the City to respond without delay – in a targeted way and responsive way – to these situations when they arise in our downtown neighbourhoods.

This report from City staff shows the steps the City has taken, lessons learned that can be brought forward, and how the City is weighing options and escalations. It demonstrates clearly what additional steps we need to take, to strengthen the City's framework on this issue, to address this issue with the urgency it requires right now and in the long-term.

I am asking for your support for the following additional recommendations.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. City Economic and Community Development Committee request the Executive Director, Customer Experience, in consultation with the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to consider:
 - a. developing a new service request sub-type for 311 reports related to feeding wildlife, specific to coyotes
 - b. expanding definition of the “Coyote Posing Threat To Public Safety” 311 service request description to include specific behaviours such as stalking, snarling or other observed aggressive behaviours
2. Economic and Community Development Committee request the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to:
 - a. in consultation with relevant Divisions, review proactive measures that can be undertaken to manage food and wildlife feeding sources from waste and other sources
 - b. in consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, the Ministry of Natural Resources, or other municipalities, consider the feasibility of incorporating a reproductive control approach for coyotes in Ward 10, as an outcome of the loss of habitat.
 - c. in consultation with the Chief Communications Officer, to create reliable and responsive channels for public and stakeholder updates related to coyote incidents and response.
3. Economic and Community Development Committee request the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing & Standards, as part of the planned report on the Coyote Response Strategy, to:
 - a. explore what additional preventative measures can be implemented to deter coyotes downtown and across the city where these issues occur, including resources required for a dedicated wildlife staff team.
 - b. provide thresholds and estimated ranges of time for escalation protocols on the City of Toronto’s response to coyote incidents in downtown communities as part of the Human-Coyote Incident Classification and Response Framework.
 - c. establish a more pet-friendly approach as part of efforts to minimize interactions with wildlife including engaging trainers and experts in pet care, pet safety and/or pet owner support .
 - d. make recommendations that support higher set fines specific to coyotes for feeding wildlife as per 349-10.1
 - e. make further recommendations that build on the previous request to the Province of Ontario, by identifying additional requests to the Province to support the City’s efforts in responding to coyotes.
 - f. report back on the above items and implementation of the Downtown Coyote Action Plan as part of the upcoming report on the updated city-wide Coyote Response Strategy in Q3 2025.

Thank you,



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