

ORDINANCE NO. 111-26

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 162-22 PASSED NOVEMBER 7, 2023 AND REPLACING SECTION 505.11 OF CHAPTER 505 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MEDINA CREATING MEDINA'S COMPREHENSIVE DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING A NUISANCE ABATEMENT INITIATIVE FOR BOTH SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM CONTROL AND REDUCTION OF THE WHITE-TAILED DEER POPULATION IN COORDINATION WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONTIGUOUS, ADJOINING, POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS THAT OPT TO ADOPT A SIMILAR PLAN FOR NUISANCE ABATEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

- WHEREAS:** White-tailed deer are considered a keystone species, known for affecting other organisms in an ecosystem. They are browser, meaning they eat all forms of plant material including seedlings, leaves, buds, flowers, fruit, bark, young trees and branches. Without the presence of keystone predators, like mountain lions, wolves, and black bears, the uncontrolled overpopulation of deer threatens the natural environment. Left unchecked, the forest and other property become over-browsed of favorite deer species, such as Oak trees, flowers, and other plants degrading yards for property owners and forests for park patrons to enjoy now and into the future. The white-tailed deer population in urban areas has grown to unmanageable numbers; and
- WHEREAS:** As a consequence thereof great financial loss has been suffered by public and private property owners, in the destruction of plants, flowers, trees and other edible landscaping; and
- WHEREAS:** Deer/vehicle accidents increase annually and threaten the lives and property of all those who travel by vehicle on our streets and highways; and
- WHEREAS:** While hunting in the City of Medina is prohibited, the exploding regional deer population requires deer management efforts; and
- WHEREAS:** This Council finds that the existing circumstances constitute an ongoing and serious nuisance which must be abated for the public health, safety and welfare; and
- WHEREAS:** The Mayor and Council, working in conjunction with ODNR and in coordination with other similarly situated municipalities, seek to establish a “nuisance abatement initiative” to allow for the liberal issuance of permits from both the ODNR and the municipal police department (deer damage control permits) with the consent of an upon the application of property owners seeking relief; and

WHEREAS: It is therefore necessary to amend the Codified Ordinances of the City of Medina, Part Five General Offenses Code, Chapter 505 Animals, Section 505.11 Hunting Prohibited to permit the limited hunting of white-tailed deer by cross bow or long bow and sharp shooters under terms and conditions established by the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEDINA, OHIO:

SEC. 1: That notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, Section 505.11 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Medina is replaced with the following:

505.11 HUNTING PROHIBITED AND CREATION OF MEDINA'S COMPREHENSIVE DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- (a) The hunting of animals or fowl within the Municipality is prohibited. No person shall hunt, kill or attempt to kill any animal or fowl by the use of any other means, except as follows:
 - (1) The limited hunting of white-tailed deer by crossbow or longbow may be permitted within the City under the following terms and conditions:
 - (a) The Mayor, or his designated representative, may, in his sole discretion, issue a Municipal Deer Control Permit to an archer applicant to allow only bow-hunting (long bow and crossbow) of white-tailed deer;
 - (b) The permit is limited to private property areas deemed safe by the Mayor, or his designated representative, and public property areas approved by Council, by State and licensed hunters or property owners who have provided proof of successfully passing a hunter education course, or other pre-approved equivalent type of safety training on such forms and subject to such rules and regulations as the Mayor, or his designated representative, may prescribe, subject to approval by council.
 - (c) Written permission from the property owner(s) has been obtained;
 - (d) Compliance with all laws, rules and regulations of the City and State is required;
 - (e) All applicants shall agree, in writing, to defend release and indemnify the City for any negligent acts committed by the applicant;
 - (f) Any other requirements as deemed necessary to preserve and protect the health, safety and welfare of the residents as determined by the Mayor, or his designated representative, subject to approval by Council.
 - (g) The Mayor, or his designated representative, is hereby authorized to promulgate any and all rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provision of this section and all other rules and regulations necessary to insure public health and safety, subject to approval by Council.
- (b) The City may utilize firearms-trained personnel, approved by Council, to cull white-tailed deer upon property owned or managed by the City or upon private property

with permission, provided that:

- (1) The Chief of Police, or his designee, has determined that such culling can be safely conducted on such public property, and the location has been approved by Council majority; and
 - (2) Such personnel are employed by or associated with a federal agency, state agency or local law enforcement agency; and
 - (3) Such culling has been approved by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.
- (c) No person shall, for the purpose of hindering or preventing the lawful culling of white-tailed deer pursuant to this section, knowingly engage in any of the following conduct:
- (1) Block, obstruct, impede or attempt to block, obstruct or impede a person lawfully engaged in such culling;
 - (2) Erect a barrier with the intent to deny ingress or egress from the areas where such culling is lawfully being conducted;
 - (3) Make or attempt to make unauthorized physical contact with or in any way interfere with a person lawfully engaged in such culling; or
 - (4) Make or attempt to make loud noises or gestures, set out or attempt to set out animal baits, scents, lures or human scent, use any other natural or artificial visual, aural, olfactory or physical stimuli, or engage in or attempt to engage in any other similar action or activity in order to interfere with such culling.

Whoever violates any provisions of Section 505.11(c) is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree and shall be subject to the penalty provided in Section 501.99.

(d) There is hereby established an advisory committee to promote the education of Medina's Comprehensive Deer Management Program to its residents and to promote community engagement in the implementation and management of resident issues and concerns. The committee shall be composed of two (2) representatives from Medina City Council, appointed by the President of Council, two (2) representatives from the Medina City administration, appointed by the Mayor and three (3) Medina City residents, appointed by the members of the advisory committee.

(e) There shall be established an interactive website link on the City's Website that notifies the public of the date and times culling will occur on public properties. The website shall also enable residents and non-residents to sign up to receive harvested deer carcasses that may be made available from the culling. City residents shall receive first priority to harvested deer.

(f) Council may adopt rules, regulations and guidelines outlining Medina's Comprehensive Deer Management Program, from time to time, which rules, regulations and guidelines shall be enforced by the Mayor, or designated representative.

(g) All culling areas located upon public locations shall be identified by appropriate signage. All adjacent property owners to private or public culling areas shall be notified that

hunting will take place on property located adjacent to their property. If the property owners notified want to receive notification of when private and public culling will take place, they must supply the City with their email address so it can be entered into a notification data bank. The City shall notify all property owners that requested notification in advance of the date and times culling will occur.

(h) The administration shall keep a detailed record of all hunters on both private and public properties, the number of deer harvested by each hunter, the number of deer involved in a vehicle accident and a list of reported property damage caused by deer.

(j) Data shall be collected on the understory damage in parks and other public areas. Plantings prairies, invasive species removal and native species reclamation shall occur in various public properties as approved by Council.

(k) Deer crossing warning signage, including permanent signs, temporary signs, and decoy deterrents shall be place throughout the City in locations determined to be high vehicle/deer incident areas with consultation of Council.

SEC. 2: That the City in cooperation with ODNR and the Division of Wildlife will explore and strive to adopt long term non-lethal options for deer population control including methods that may provide the necessary relief on a cost-effective basis.

SEC. 3: That no other method for the control of the deer population is permitted other than such as is authorized herein; all other provisions of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Medina not specifically modified herein shall remain unaffected by these measures and fully enforceable.

SEC. 4: That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

SEC. 5: That this Ordinance shall be considered an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and for the further reason that preparations for the program are set to begin soon; wherefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and signature by the Mayor.

PASSED: July 13, 2026

SIGNED: John M. Coyne, III
President of Council

ATTEST: Kathy Patton
Clerk of Council

APPROVED: July 13, 2026

SIGNED: James A. Shields
Mayor