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For Immediate Release

MORRIS TOWNSHIP

DEER MANAGEMENT

Morris Township recently completed its fifth deer culling season. This program is part of the township's wildlife management program endorsed by the township's Environmental Commission. In 2009-2010, 171 deer were harvested throughout Morris Township of which 139 were female and 32 were male. An estimated 75 females would have reproduced this spring capable of having twin fawns which could have produced 150 fawns. Therefore, if you add total males (32) plus total females (139), plus the 150 fawns that could have been born this spring, the total number of deer absent from this spring's population would approximate 321.

There were also 100 dead deer picked up on the side of the road due to motor vehicle crashes between 1/1/09 and 12/31/09. When you add this number to the total number of deer absent this spring (321), there are approximately 421 less deer in the township this spring.

The total cost per deer to the Township came to \$33.00 (down \$13.00 per deer compared to last season). This is far below the \$300.00 to \$350.00 per deer that most professional deer management companies would charge.

Morris Township was once again fortunate to retain the services of 29 volunteer hunters who performed another outstanding job. They volunteered approximately 684 man-hours of their own time to harvest deer for the township. Overall, the Township of Morris, was very pleased with this year's deer management program and will continue the program next season.

Since 2005, Morris Township has harvested 1,005 deer and the total population has seemed to leveled off in the last several years; this was anticipated to happen. There are areas of the township that need more attention but our biggest concern will be finding access to safe areas to continue the culling program.

If you have any questions about the deer management program, or would like to report an area of Morris Township with a high concentration of deer, please call Patrolman Steven Summerer at Police Headquarters at (973) 326-7450 or (973) 539-0777.

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