



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Canada Geese Protection Denver Activist Group Condemns Geese Slaughters in Denver Parks; Calls for Accountability from Denver City Officials**

*July 6, 2019, DENVER, Colo.* – Canada Geese Protection Denver, an activist group, today condemns the recent slaughters of molting juvenile and adult geese populations in Denver’s Washington Park and City Park, and calls for an immediate halt to the slaughters.

The contract that Denver officials signed for the USDA to kill up to 2,200 geese per year cost Denver taxpayers a starting price of \$149,000. Residents were deliberately left out of the decision-making process on goose management. Canada Geese Protection Denver’s position is that taxpayers, who paid for the slaughters, have a right to determine how urban wildlife is managed.

In addition, the activist group challenges the City of Denver to provide transparency about their claims that the goose meat was given to “needy families.” The city’s U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) permit number **MB715492-1** clearly states that meat taken from wildlife slaughters is for “animal dietary purposes only” and cannot be fed to humans.

Canada Geese Protection Denver acknowledges that some people think there was too much goose poop in Denver’s Parks. However, the group condemns Denver Parks & Rec for slaughtering close to half of Canada geese in Denver parks rather than effectively following best practices of non-lethal management. Canada Geese Protection Denver calls on Denver city officials to immediately stop all goose slaughter and to walk the walk on promises of government transparency.

Canada Geese Protection Denver calls for 4 immediate actions from Denver city officials:

1. Immediately stop killing geese in Denver parks.
2. Use only non-lethal means to reduce goose poop in parks, even if that means staffing up Denver Parks & Recreation.
3. Hold a public meeting / town hall to answer constituent questions.
4. Fire Executive Director Happy Haynes & Deputy Executive Director Scott Gilmore & replace them with directors who will deploy long-term, non-lethal solutions to goose poop management.



In addition, Canada Geese Protection Denver is holding a rally / protest at the northeast corner of Washington Park on July 6 from 10-11:15 am, and will provide a variety of actions attendees can take to voice their opposition to Denver city officials.

### **Opposition to Geese Slaughters Growing Fast: Denver City Officials Must Listen & Respond**

Denver Parks has justified the goose slaughters because 1,500 people allegedly have complained about goose droppings in parks. If this is the case, then the City of Denver should pay attention to the growing outrage and opposition to the cruel & wasteful slaughters:

- In 5 days, more than 600 people have joined the Canada Geese Protection Denver Facebook group.
- A Change.org petition to fire Scott Gilmore, who oversees Denver Parks, has more than 2,200 signatures.
- Residents have bombarded the Mayor, the Denver City Council members, and Denver Parks & Recreation officials with calls & emails expressing outrage.

### **About Canada Geese Protection Denver**

Canada Geese Protection Denver is a grassroots organization, which was formed by local residents outraged by the slaughter of geese in Denver's parks.

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