

ADDRESSING RACE RELATIONS IN GAMING

April 16, 2007

The Department of Natural Resources has a duty to secure a safe hunting environment for hunters. One element present in hunting that has become a factor that detracts from a safe hunting environment is racial animosity. After the recent fatal incidents involving Chai Vang and Cha Vang, it has come to light that racial tensions surrounding gaming in Wisconsin must be addressed. Until this issue is addressed, racial tensions will only escalate within the hunting community.

It is proposed that the DNR make an annual statement at the beginning of White-tailed deer season denouncing racial violence. In this statement, the DNR should make clear that racial violence will be taken seriously, will not be tolerated, and is not supported in any way by the DNR. The public statement should also outline steps that should be taken by hunters if they feel they are in a racially driven confrontation that may lead to violence. This statement should be made public through different mediums such as television, newspapers, radio, and the DNR's website and published in the languages of the major ethnic communities within Wisconsin (ex: Hmong, Spanish, etc.).

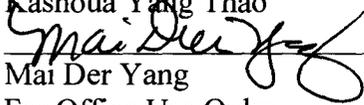
By educating hunters about hunting laws and regulations hunters will have a better understanding of what they can and cannot do when hunting, thus curbing the number of confrontations between hunters which could potentially escalate to violence. Train hunters how to handle situations they believe will escalate to violence. This should include how to document incidents, who to contact, and safety tips (ex: not hunting alone, having a means of communication via cell phone or radio). Ethical considerations should also be discussed.

Offer these classes in the languages of the major ethnic communities within Wisconsin. Since volunteer instructors conduct the classes offered by the DNR, the DNR should recruit diverse volunteer instructors in order to meet the needs of the diverse population of hunters.

Recruiting and retaining wardens from diverse backgrounds will assist in addressing the racial tensions within the hunting community. By having wardens who are representative of the hunting community, issues involving race can be better communicated between the community and DNR.

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Passed or Failed _____

County Resolution Number _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES 60 NO 35