



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

3917 Memorial Highway  
Dallas PA 18612

Northeast Region  
(570) 675-1143

September 30, 2016

Mr. Clarence Dingman, President  
Sunrise Lake Property Owner's Association  
101 Sunrise Drive  
Milford, PA 18337

Dear Mr. Dingman,

I am writing you in regards to the bear issues at the Sunrise Lake Community in Pike County.

During the past few months there has been a drastic increase in the number of bear complaints within your community. Wildlife Conservation Officer Robert Johnson, has been working with your community to alleviate some of the bear issues by offering advice to homeowners to minimize garbage odor. Odors attract bears making this situation a common problem during the warm summer months when bears are most active and garbage is odorous. As in many cases throughout Pike County, both people and bears share the same back yard. The goal is to educate both residences and community leaders that they may need to make some accommodations to peacefully coexist with bears by not encouraging bears to become a problem by eliminating the availability of food.

When handling bear complaints, bear trapping is often the last resort when other attempts to rectify the problem have failed. The relocation of a bear is only a temporary solution to the problem that often leads to the return of the bear or another bear visiting the community due to the availability of food. The need is to find a long-term solution reducing the availability of food to bears that live in close proximity to your community. Communities such as Sunrise Lake have been successful in reducing bear conflicts through the use of bear proof dumpsters and trash compacters.

Without the cooperation of the residents of Sunrise Lakes Community, it may not be feasible for PGC officers to respond to bear complaints involving bears getting into garage within your community.

In closing, bear problems are minimized when everyone in a community properly secures their garbage. Resolutions of bear problems is a community effort. It takes a village to educate a child and a community to educate a bear.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel E. Figured". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel E. Figured  
Director  
Northeast Region Office

cc: WCO Johnson