



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 21, 2022

**DATE:** May 20, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Chad Giesinger, AICP, Planning and Building Division  
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**THROUGH:** Mojra Hauenstein, Arch., AICP, Planner, Division Director, Planning & Building Division, Community Services Department, 328-3619,  
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**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing: To consider and either approve or deny an Outdoor Festival Business License pursuant to Washoe County Code 25.263 through 25.305, inclusive, and associated license conditions for an application submitted by the Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau, on behalf of the Incline Village Crystal Bay Drone SkyShow Coalition, to hold a "Drone SkyShow" event on July 4, 2022 at 948 Incline Way (APN: 127-030-15) in Incline Village at the Incline Village Visitor Center Park and ball fields.

Set-up for traffic control will begin at 5:00 a.m. on July 4, 2022, and the Drone SkyShow event will occur from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Event take-down and cleanup will begin immediately following the Drone SkyShow. A community clean-up day is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, 2022, that will incorporate community volunteers, Incline Village Rotary members, and partner staff. Event organizers estimate 3,000 spectators/attendees. If approved, authorize the Director of the Planning and Building Division, Community Services Department to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met. (Commission District 1.)

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### SUMMARY

This is a public hearing set for the Board of County Commissioners (Board) to consider and either approve or deny the Outdoor Festival Business License application for the Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau (4<sup>th</sup> of July coalition) "Drone SkyShow" event. Incline Village Crystal Bay plans to debut a new way to celebrate the 4th of July with a 'Drone SkyShow' event lighting up the night sky. The intent of the event is to provide a high-quality, innovative, environmentally sustainable, and fire-safe celebration at Lake Tahoe. Based on the testimony and evidence presented at the hearing, to include the report of reviewing agencies, the Board may approve the issuance of the business license with the attached conditions or deny the business license application.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

## **PREVIOUS ACTION**

The first Red, White and Tahoe Blue community event was held over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in 2007 in Incline Village. This was a community-initiated activity, and no permits were issued. In 2012, a Community Event Business License was issued for Red, White and Tahoe Blue. By 2014, the event had grown to over 1,000 people in attendance and an Outdoor Festival License was issued for Red, White and Tahoe Blue, which was approved unanimously by the Board. The Board continued to issue an Outdoor Festival License for Red, White and Tahoe Blue through 2018.

In 2019, the Incline Village Crystal Bay Fireworks Coalition was created by the Incline Community Business Association. The Coalition took on the responsibility of the fireworks show, while other organizations took over sponsoring the smaller events. The event planned for 2020 was cancelled due to COVID, and no event was planned for 2021 out of an abundance of caution. With the easing of COVID restrictions and case counts, this newly revised community event is planned for 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Incline Village 4<sup>th</sup> of July event was started in 2006 when a group of Incline Village residents created a nonprofit organization named the Red, White and Tahoe Blue Inc., to plan, organize and raise funds for a Fourth of July event to promote community spirit, family activities and local businesses. The Red, White and Tahoe Blue event grew over the years and became a significant event for the community. However, in 2018, the Red, White and Tahoe Blue organization had various challenges and the organizers had to eliminate some of the events that had occurred in previous years. In 2019, the Incline Village Crystal Bay Fireworks Coalition sponsored the fireworks show, while other organizations sponsored the smaller events.

This year, the Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau, in a joint effort with the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID), the Incline Village Crystal Bay Community & Business Association (IVCBA), the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe and the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, plans to conduct a “Drone SkyShow” event that does not utilize a pyrotechnic fireworks display. The intent of the event is to provide a high-quality, innovative, environmentally sustainable, and fire-safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at Lake Tahoe. Any associated smaller events for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July will be held by other organizations / entities.

The Drone SkyShow is estimated to have approximately 3,000 spectators. The event will be conducted at the baseball fields near Incline Village middle school, located at the intersection of Southwood Blvd. and Incline Way. The drones will fly above the open space adjacent to the ball fields. The drone show will be provided by Verge Aero, a company based out of Philadelphia that specializes in such events. Verge will provide 2 x 200-unit drone shows operating for up to 10 minutes and both shows will be at the same location. The show times will be approximately 9:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. with battery changing between shows.

Spectator “zones” will be set up on 2 of the 3 ball fields with the 3<sup>rd</sup> field being utilized for drone set up operations. A food truck and beer garden (services provided by existing licensed businesses) will be provided in a nearby parking lot, as will portable toilets, hand washing stations, and medical standby.

Staff and affected agencies have reviewed this application to ensure that all necessary services (e.g., restrooms, medical, fire, sheriff, security), traffic control, and cleanup is provided (*see* Attachment B for agency conditions of approval, and Attachment C, event application). To ensure that the public health, safety, and welfare is protected, all affected agencies have planned in advance to determine how much staff and other resources will be needed during the event.

A detailed traffic control plan has been submitted (*see* Attachment C, Event Application, page 64). A parking and shuttle plan has also been prepared and submitted (*see* Attachment C, Event Application, page 74). Traffic control will begin at 5:00 a.m. and continue through the end of the event until all traffic has exited. The Sheriff’s Office will be contracted to provide traffic and security services. An NDOT permit has been issued for the event concerning SR 28 encroachment. A communication and safety plan has been submitted that includes plans for radio communications, medical services, and lighting. Cleanup will begin immediately following the event and continue through the next day.

WCC 25.265(1) requires the applicant to obtain an Outdoor Festival Business License to operate or conduct an outdoor entertainment event for 1,000 or more persons on any one day of the event for which an outdoor festival license is required. The application is required to be heard by the Board in a public hearing. *See* WCC 25.277(1). Based upon the testimony of witnesses, the evidence presented at the hearing, and the report from Washoe County’s business licensing division, the Board may approve issuing the license with conditions or may deny the application based on the grounds listed in WCC 25.281. *See* WCC 25.277(3).

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The applicant provided the required non-refundable \$1,000 application fee and the daily fee of \$350 pursuant to WCC 25.273(1)(a) upon submission of the application. The fees were deposited to CSD Planning and Development; Permits and Licenses (105402); General Business License (421101).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve the Outdoor Festival Business License application, with the license conditions included as Attachment B, for the Incline Village Crystal Bay Drone SkyShow Coalition to hold a “Drone SkyShow” event on July 4, 2022 at 948 Incline Way (APN: 127-030-15) in Incline Village at the Incline Village Visitor Center Park and ball fields; and further, to authorize the Director of the Planning & Building Division, Community Services Department, to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to approve an Outdoor Festival Business License application, with the license conditions included as Attachment B, for the Incline Village Crystal Bay Drone SkyShow Coalition to hold a “Drone SkyShow” event on July 4, 2022 at 948 Incline Way (APN: 127-030-15) in Incline Village at the Incline Village Visitor Center Park and ball fields; and further, to authorize the Director of the Planning & Building Division, Community Services Department, to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met.”

Attachments: A. Outdoor Festival Business License  
B. Outdoor Festival Business License Conditions of Approval  
C. Outdoor Festival Business License Application

xc: Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau, 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451 email: [Andy@GoTahoe.com](mailto:Andy@GoTahoe.com)