



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *October 14, 2025*

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TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Abbe Yacoben, Chief Financial Officer, (775)325-8243

ayacoben@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Interim County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a request by the Chief Financial Officer, through the Washoe County Clerk, and pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.030, to initiate amendments to the Washoe County Code by repealing Chapter 11 in its entirety to dissolve the Department of Alternative Sentencing effective January 1, 2026; and direct the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed revision in accordance with Washoe County Code 2.040. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Chapter 11 of the Washoe County Code (“WCC”) created the Department of Alternative Sentencing (“DAS”) and outlines the structure and duties of the Department. WCC 2.020 and 2.030 set forth the procedures for requesting proposed code amendments, including deletions, to the Washoe County Code. The Chief Financial Officer, by and through the County Clerk, requests to initiate proceedings to start the formal process of amending the WCC by repealing Chapter 11 in its entirety to dissolve the DAS effective January 1, 2026. The purpose of repealing Chapter 11 of the WCC is to dissolve DAS to satisfy current County organizational needs, to maintain the efficiency of County operations, and to ensure that County resources are allocated in a manner that best supports public safety and fiscal sustainability. If the request is approved, the Board is asked to direct the County Clerk to submit a request to the Washoe County District Attorney (“DA”) to draft the proposed ordinance, including the amendments to Chapter 11 of the WCC. When the ordinance is complete, the County Clerk will set an Introduction and First Reading.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On November 12, 1996, the Board adopted a resolution establishing an Alternative Sentencing Department for Washoe County, designating the Day Reporting Center as the Department under the authority of Nevada Revised Statutes (“NRS”) Chapter 211A. The resolution set forth the appointment of the Chief, the imposition of a minimum monthly supervision fee, and provisions for waiving or reducing fees in cases of economic hardship.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On October 14, 2003, the Board adopted a resolution repealing the 1996 resolution establishing the Alternative Sentencing Department under the Second Judicial District Court. This action transferred the Day Reporting function to Washoe County, abolished four (4) Pre-Trial Services Officer II positions in the District Court, and created new positions within the County, including Alternative Sentencing Officer II, and Supervising Alternative Sentencing Officer. The Board also approved a Memorandum of Understanding to bridge transferring employees' benefits.

On December 20, 2005, the Board conducted a second reading and adopted Ordinance No. 1281, Bill No. 1460, which created the Department of Alternative Sentencing pursuant to authority granted to it by NRS 211A.080, established the position of Chief, authorized the hiring of assistants and other employees, and specified the duties of the Department, including the imposition of supervision fees. This action formally created DAS codified the Department's structure and operations under WCC Chapter 11, as authorized by NRS 211A.080.

BACKGROUND

DAS was established to provide an alternative to incarceration for certain misdemeanor offenders, with the intent to enhance public safety, reduce jail overcrowding, and support the rehabilitation of individuals under court supervision. In 1996, the Board designated the Day Reporting Center as the County's Alternative Sentencing Department and subsequently formalized the Department's structure and operations through the adoption of WCC Chapter 11 in December 2005 pursuant to NRS 211A.080.

The Board enacted Chapter 11 of the Washoe County Code which created DAS and outlined the structure and duties and qualifications of Department personnel. WCC 11.020 formally creates the Department pursuant to NRS 211A.080. Section 11.030 details the appointment and qualifications of the Chief, while Section 11.040 enumerates the Chief's duties, including fiscal management, staff supervision, and annual reporting requirements. Section 11.060 outlines the Department's obligation to supervise probationers and pretrial releasees as ordered by the courts.

The Washoe County Strategic Plan emphasizes fiscal sustainability, effective stewardship of public resources, and the alignment of County operations with evolving community needs. Operational reviews and internal audits have identified many issues within the Department, including the need for improved fiscal controls, streamlined service delivery, and better alignment of resources with program priorities. The presence of overlapping functions with other County divisions and external agencies has prompted discussions about the most efficient and effective means of delivering court-ordered supervision and related services. As opportunities for increased efficiency arise, new optimized service delivery plans are proposed to the Board for consideration and approval.

The proposed repeal of Chapter 11 and elimination of the DAS is consistent with the County's strategic priorities, as it seeks to streamline operations, improve government efficiency, reduce redundancy, and ensure that resources are allocated in a manner that best supports public safety and community well-being.

WCC 2.030 and 2.040 establish the procedures for initiating, amending, or repealing county ordinances, including the requirement for Board approval and public notice prior to the adoption or repeal of any chapter of County Code.

The recommendation to initiate proceedings to repeal WCC Chapter 11 is the first step in the formal process to dissolve DAS effective January 1, 2025. The recommendation to repeal code provisions for the purpose of dissolving DAS is grounded in legal authority and the County's commitment to responsible governance. Staff is performing proactive coordination with judicial partners and other stakeholders to ensure continuity of essential services and compliance with all applicable legal requirements and community expectations.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to request initiation of proceedings to repeal provisions in the Washoe County Code.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve a request by the Chief Financial Officer, through the Washoe County Clerk, and pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.030, to initiate amendments to the Washoe County Code by repealing Chapter 11 in its entirety to dissolve the Department of Alternative Sentencing effective January 1, 2026; and direct the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance in accordance with Washoe County Code 2.040. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

“Move to approve the recommendation by the Chief Financial Officer, through the Washoe County Clerk, and pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.030, to initiate amendments to the Washoe County Code by repealing Chapter 11 in its entirety to dissolve the Department of Alternative Sentencing effective January 1, 2026; and direct the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance in accordance with Washoe County Code 2.040.”