WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE: July 10, 2018

DATE: June 18, 2018

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
Community Services Department, 328-3600, dsolaro@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Nancy Parent, Washoe County Clerk on behalf of the Community Services Department

SUBJECT: Approve a request to initiate proceedings to amend the Washoe County Code (Chapter 50 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals) pursuant to a request by Commissioners to allow for limiting target shooting within Washoe County when conditions present a danger for wildland fire; and direct the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 2.030 and 2.040. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Community Services Department, through the County Clerk, requests (pursuant to Washoe County Code 2.030) to initiate proceedings to amend the Washoe County Code (Chapter 50 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals) as requested by Commissioners to address concerns of public safety related to target shooting and conditions that create a wildland fire hazard. If the request is approved, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) is asked to direct the County Clerk to submit a request to the District Attorney to draft a proposed ordinance amending the code. When the proposed ordinance is complete, the County Clerk will commence proceedings by setting an Introduction and First Reading.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

July 12, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners held the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 1581, amending Chapter 50 of the Washoe County Code (Public Peace, Safety and Morals), amending Section 50.092 – Unlawful Discharge of Firearms; Exemption; amending Section 50.096 - Greater Truckee Meadows and environs Congested area and incorporating the Old Washoe City Congested area into the Greater Truckee Meadows and environs Congested area; 50.104 - Spanish Springs area Congested area, 50.108 - New Washoe City Congested area; Eliminating 50.110 - Old Washoe City Congested area; to update the congested areas and associated maps.

June 28, 2016, the Board held the introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 50 of the Washoe County Code.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

July 28, 2015, the Board approved a request to initiate proceedings to amend Washoe County Code (Chapter 50 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals) pursuant to a request by Commissioner Berkbigler; and directed the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 2.030 and 2.040.

August 26, 2014, the Board adopted an ordinance, amending Sections 50.090 and 50.092 of Chapter 50 of the Washoe County Code (Peace, Morals and Public Safety) to remove certain restrictions on the discharge of firearms in portions of Warm Springs.

December 2002 - The Firearm Congested Area Boundary was adjusted by the Board of County Commissioners.

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Washoe County Code (WCC) section 2.030, amendments to the Washoe County Code must be initiated by a request from the head of a department of the County to the County Clerk. Upon receiving the request, the County Clerk, under WCC 2.040, places the request on an agenda for consideration by the Board who would consider the request (and may hear testimony from the proposer or any other person regarding the proposed changes), and by a majority vote of the members present at the meeting, may approve the request with any changes the Board desires. If approved, the Board would then direct the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance, and, under WCC 2.050, when the District Attorney has completed the proposed ordinance the County Clerk would put the proposed ordinance on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board in accordance with the adoption procedures set out in NRS 244.100.

As indicated in the attached letter, the Community Services Department has requested an amendment to the Washoe County Code (Chapter 50- Public Peace, Safety and Morals) as requested by Commissioners to allow for limiting target shooting within Washoe County when conditions present a danger for wildland fire.

Increasingly in the summer months, conditions within Washoe County become ripe for fire starts associated with target shooting. Numerous fires have been started across the Western United States from target shooting costing millions of dollars to suppress. In the past, the Forest Service has declared portions of Washoe County off limits to target shooting on Forest Service lands. This requested change will create a mechanism for the County Manager in consultation with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District Fire Chief to define areas in Washoe County off limits to target shooting when conditions warrant due to increased fire danger.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed code changes are not expected to increase costs. This ordinance is exempt from the Business Impact Statement pursuant to NRS 237.060 (2)(c).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that The Board of County Commissioners approve a request to initiate proceedings to amend the Washoe County Code (Chapter 50 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals) pursuant to a request by Commissioners to allow for limiting target shooting within Washoe County when conditions present a danger for wildland fire; and direct the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 2.030 and 2.040.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve a request to initiate proceedings to amend the Washoe County Code (Chapter 50 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals) pursuant to a request by Commissioners to allow for limiting target shooting within Washoe County when conditions present a danger for wildland fire; and direct the County Clerk to submit the request to the District Attorney for preparation of a proposed ordinance, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 2.030 and 2.040."