

May 6, 2025

Mr. Justin Taylor
Washoe County Treasurer

Dear Treasurer Taylor,

Pursuant to Washoe County Code 15.205 – Establishment of accounts in banks or savings and loan associations, please allow this letter to serve as an official and proper request for a new bank account to be established in accordance with NRS 356.200.

The need for this bank account is to facilitate criminal investigations. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Northern Nevada Drug Task Force (NNDTF) has noted the use of online marketplaces, such as social media sites and messaging platforms, in drug trafficking. Drug traffickers are increasingly using online marketplaces and virtual currencies to connect with buyers and obscure the source of payments. Online marketplaces facilitate trafficking by providing anonymity, connecting buyers and sellers, and allowing a range of payment methods, including virtual currencies. These marketplaces often use the "dark web," a hidden part of the internet that users access using specialized software. Traffickers use virtual currencies and peer-to-peer mobile payment services because transactions are somewhat anonymous, making detection by law enforcement more difficult. However, all transactions on a public blockchain (the technology used by some virtual currencies) can be tracked to some extent.

Several federal law enforcement agencies investigate and prosecute trafficking cases involving virtual currency and online marketplaces, including through interagency partnerships. The NNDTF can use blockchain analytics tools to investigate suspected illicit activity that uses virtual currencies. Many virtual currency transactions are permanently recorded on public blockchains, allowing them to be matched to user information collected by virtual currency platforms and tracked to an ideal subscriber to that account.

Respectfully Submitted,



Darin Balaam

Sheriff