



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: February 17, 2026

**DATE:** January 23, 2026

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Chad Giesinger, Planning Manager, Planning and Building Division,  
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**THROUGH:** Kelly Mullin, Division Director, Planning and Building, Community  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve a State of Nevada Importer/Wholesaler  
Liquor License application for James Grimes, et.al., dba Comstock  
Distillers LLC, at 140 Inventors Place, Spanish Springs, Nevada, and if  
approved, authorize each Commissioner to sign the *Nevada State Liquor  
License Application* with direction for the County Clerk to attest the  
license application. (Commission District 4.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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### **SUMMARY**

Review and approve the application for a State of Nevada Importer/Wholesaler Liquor License submitted by James Grimes, dba Comstock Distillers LLC.

Pursuant to NRS 369.180, 369.190, and 369.200 and Washoe County Code (WCC) 30.3331 through 30.3337, inclusive, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners shall approve or disapprove applications to engage in business as an importer and wholesaler of intoxicating liquors in unincorporated Washoe County.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impacts – support a thriving economy.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

No previous action by Washoe County. Comstock Distillers LLC has an existing business location at 1345 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St. approved by the City of Reno.

### **BACKGROUND**

James Grimes, Randy Barnes, and Holly Murphy, dba Comstock Distillers LLC, have applied for a Washoe County business and quarterly liquor license and a Washoe County Importer/Wholesaler of Intoxicating Liquor License to open a liquor rectifier operation in the unincorporated area of Spanish Springs located at 140 Inventors Place. This will be a second location for the business, which has an existing operation in Reno.

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

A liquor rectifier means any person who imports liquor into, or within, the State for the purpose of rectification. Pursuant to NRS 369.415, a rectifier is an importer. Any person operating as a rectifier is required to obtain an importer/wholesaler liquor license from the State of Nevada Department of Taxation (and applicable local government) pursuant to NRS 369.180. The Nevada State Liquor License application is attached for Board review. If the Board approves the application, all members of the Board will be required to sign the application before it is sent to the State of Nevada Department of Taxation for final approval.

NRS 369.190(1)(a) and (3) require the Board to consider State liquor license applications for an importer/wholesaler within unincorporated Washoe County and determine, upon satisfactory evidence, whether the applicant is “a person of good moral character.” Washoe County Code requires the applicants to obtain both a Washoe County general business license and a Washoe County Importer/Wholesaler of Intoxicating Liquor License. Washoe County quarterly liquor licenses will also be required after approval.

Business license staff will not issue the general business license nor the Importer/Wholesaler of Intoxicating Liquor License until both the Board and the State of Nevada approve the state liquor license application. The application must be approved by the Board prior to the application being sent to the State of Nevada for final approval.

The Nevada Department of Taxation requires that any business location for an importer/wholesaler of liquor be adequate to store intoxicating liquor in addition to providing space for a business office. Staff conducted a site visit at 140 Inventors Place and has determined that the proposed location is suitable to house an importer/wholesaler of liquor business.

NRS 369.180 prohibits a person from importing liquors into this State prior to securing an importer’s license or permit from the State of Nevada Department of Taxation. Staff has confirmed that the applicants are currently not operating as an importer and they have applied for the required licenses prior to operating as a rectifier at the subject location. NRS 369.382 prohibits a “Supplier”, as defined by NRS 369.111, from engaging in business as an importer, wholesaler, or retailer of liquor. Staff has confirmed that the applicants are not operating as a Supplier.

The County Importer/Wholesaler of Intoxicating Liquor License requires a criminal history inquiry to be conducted for all applicants, pursuant to WCC 30.130. The applicants have submitted the required application to the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office and the inquiry has been completed. The results indicate that there is no disqualifying information pertaining to the applicants regarding the suitability requirements of WCC 30.160 and the mandated history time frame of 10 years. Consequently, staff has determined that the applicant is suitable to hold the liquor license under the provisions of WCC 30.160.

NRS 369.190(3) and WCC 30.160(1)(b)(1) specify that the Board “require satisfactory evidence that the applicant is a person of good moral character” when reviewing and approving a State of Nevada Importer/Wholesale Liquor License application. The

applicants completed the required *Liquor License Personal History* form and replied in the negative to any criminal convictions in the past 10 years or to any revocations of either a liquor license or work permit. The applicants also completed the required *Child Support Compliance Statement/Exemption Form* pursuant to the provisions of the State Welfare Reform Act and stated they are not subject to a court order for the support of a child.

Based on the information provided on the criminal history inquiry and on these two forms, staff has determined that the applicants are of “good moral character” and are suitable to hold both the State of Nevada Importer/Wholesaler Liquor License and the Washoe County Liquor License under the provisions of State Law and County Code. Copies of criminal history inquiry results and both sets of forms contain personal information, so they are not included with this staff report, but are available to the Board upon request.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve the State of Nevada Importer/Wholesaler Liquor License application for the owners dba Comstock Distillers LLC, and if approved, authorize each Commissioner to sign the *Nevada State Liquor License Application* with direction for the County Clerk to attest the license application.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

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

“Move to approve a State of Nevada Importer/Wholesaler Liquor License application for James Grimes, et al., dba Comstock Distillers LLC, at 140 Inventors Place, Spanish Springs, Nevada, and if approved, authorize each Commissioner to sign the *Nevada State Liquor License Application* with direction for the County Clerk to attest the license application.”

Attachment A: Original copy, *Nevada State Liquor License Application*