



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 21, 2020

DATE: July 1, 2020

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: Recommendation 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 Commissioner Herman to identify that Parcel 087-021-20 is exempt from the congested shooting boundary to allow legal target shooting; 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 Commissioner Herman to identify that Parcel 087-021-20 is exempt from the congested shooting boundary to allow legal target shooting. 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

On July 12, 2016, the Board 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.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

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

On 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 Berkgigler; 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.

On 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 Commissioner Herman to identify that Parcel 087-021-20 is exempt from the congested shooting boundary to allow legal target shooting.

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. Commissioner Herman has worked with residents in the North Valley area to identify a location for a possible dedicated shooting area. Parcel 087-021-20 managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) located in Silver Knolls off Red Rock Road has been identified as a potential parcel.

During the 2016 Congested Shooting boundary review Washoe County staff utilized data from the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency to better understand where proposed housing developments were contemplated to proactively lessen future conflicts between target shooting and residential development. The parcel in question was included in the congested shooting boundary due to future developments proposed to the

south, north, and west of the parcel. It is unknown when development of those housing projects will occur.

Commissioner Herman has reached out to the BLM for options related to identifying this parcel as a lawful target shooting location, and the first step in any process would be to amend Washoe County code to allow shooting on the parcel. To further the discussion with the BLM Commissioner Herman is requesting the board provide direction on this parcel.

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 Commissioner Herman identify that Parcel 087-021-20 is exempt from the congested shooting boundary to allow legal target shooting; 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 Commissioner identify that Parcel 087-021-20 is exempt from the congested shooting boundary to allow legal target shooting; 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."