



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 13, 2025

DATE: April 11, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Julee Olander, Planner, Planning and Building Division
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THROUGH: Kelly Mullin, AICP, Division Director, Planning and Building,
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SUBJECT: Public hearing: To approve an Outdoor Festival Business License (pursuant to Washoe County Code Chapter 25 and related provisions) and associated license conditions for an application submitted by Red White and Tahoe Blue II, to hold a fireworks show on July 4, 2025, at the Incline Village Beach (APN: 127-280-01) on a barge in Lake Tahoe off the beach area. This permit is for spectator viewing of the show only.

Set-up for traffic control will begin at 5:00 a.m. on July 4, 2025, and the fireworks show will occur from 9:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Event take-down and cleanup will begin immediately following the fireworks show. A community clean-up day is scheduled for July 5th. Event organizers estimate 6,000 spectators. If approved, authorize the Director of the Planning and Building Division, Community Services Department to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met. (Commission District 1.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

This item is to consider the Outdoor Festival Business License application for the Incline Village Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration organized by Red White and Tahoe Blue II. This permit is for spectator viewing of the show only. Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, to include the reports of reviewing agencies, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) may approve the issuance of the Outdoor Festival Business License with conditions or deny the business license application.

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

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

The first Red, White and Tahoe Blue community event was held over the 4th of July weekend in 2007 in Incline Village. This was a community-initiated activity and no permits were issued. In 2012, a Community Event Business License was issued for Red, White and Tahoe Blue. In 2014, the event had grown to over 1,000 people in attendance and an Outdoor Festival License was issued for Red, White and Tahoe Blue. The Board continued to issue an Outdoor Festival License for Red, White and Tahoe Blue through 2018.

In 2019, the Incline Village Crystal Bay Fireworks Coalition was created by the Incline Community Business Association. The Coalition took on the responsibility of the fireworks show, while other organizations took over sponsoring the smaller events. The event planned for 2020 was cancelled due to COVID, and no event was planned for 2021 out of an abundance of caution. In 2022 and 2023 a “Drone SkyShow” was put on by the organizers in lieu of fireworks. In 2024 the July 4th event was organized by a new organization, Red White and Tahoe Blue II, who moved away from the drone sky show and back to a fireworks show for the community. The event this year is proposed to be a repeat of last year’s event with a fireworks show for the community.

BACKGROUND

The Incline Village 4th of July event was started in 2006 when a group of Incline Village residents created a nonprofit organization named the Red, White and Tahoe Blue Inc., to plan, organize and raise funds for a Fourth of July event to promote community spirit, family activities and local businesses. The Red, White and Tahoe Blue event grew over the years and became a significant event for the community. However, in 2018 the Red, White and Tahoe Blue organization had various challenges and the organizers had to eliminate some of the events that had occurred in previous years. In 2019 the Incline Village Crystal Bay Fireworks Coalition sponsored the fireworks show, while other organizations sponsored the smaller events. In 2022 and 2023, the Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau, in a joint effort with the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID), the Incline Village Crystal Bay Community & Business Association (IVCBA), the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe and the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, conducted a “Drone SkyShow” event that did not utilize a pyrotechnic fireworks display.

Last year, the July 4th firework show was organized by Red White and Tahoe Blue II, which is again organizing the event this year. The fireworks show is being provided by Lantis Pyrotechnic Inc., a pyrotechnic company from Sandy, Utah. Any associated smaller events for the 4th of July will be held by other organizations/entities. Bathrooms will be available on IVGID properties, and the organizers are providing an additional 15 portable toilets, and 2 handwashing stations.

The fireworks show is permitted by North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, via a Pyrotechnics Display Permit. The fireworks display event must obtain approvals, if applicable, from the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW).

The fireworks show is estimated to have approximately 6,000 spectators. The event will be conducted in front of the Incline Village General Improvement District beach on a barge located in Lake Tahoe. The show time will be from 9:00pm to 9:30pm. The fireworks show will be presented by Lantis Productions Inc. and the barge provider is Tahoe Marine & Excavating. High Sierra Marine is providing marine tow services and Eco-Clean Solutions will provide any needed environmental clean-up of the area.

A detailed traffic control plan has been submitted (see Attachment C, Event Application, page 64-73). Traffic control will begin at 5:00 a.m. and continue through the end of the event until all traffic has exited. The traffic control is set up early to accommodate the early arrivals to the beach areas. Lakeshore Drive is shut down to only allow traffic to travel west to east. The Sheriff's Office will be contracted to provide traffic and security services. There are 4 nearby parking lots for people to use including the Incline Beach parking lot, the Aspen Grove parking lot along with the overflow parking lot west of Aspen Grove. IVGID has 2 ancillary parking lots located at the Incline Village Recreation Center behind Aspen Grove, and parking is also available at the IVGID Administration Building. Organizers anticipate many attendees walking or biking to the event.

The applicants have been issued an approved North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District (NLTFPD) permit, and NLTFPD has signed an agreement with RWTBII to provide EMS service. Cleanup will begin immediately following the event and continue through the next day, cleanup will include surface skimming, beach cleanup and underwater cleanup.

FISCAL IMPACT

The applicant provided the required non-refundable \$1,000 application fee and the daily fee of \$350 in accordance with WCC section 25.273(1)(a), upon submission of the application on March 12, 2025. The fees were deposited to CSD Planning and Development; Permit and Licenses (105402), General Business License (421101).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve the Outdoor Festival Business License application with the license conditions included as Attachment B for Red White and Tahoe Blue II, Inc. for the Incline Village Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration scheduled to be held July 4, 2025 at the Incline Beach (APN: 127-280-01) and further authorize the Director of the Planning & Building Division, Community Services Department, to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met.

POSSIBLE MOTION

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

“Move to approve an Outdoor Festival Business License application, with the license conditions included as Attachment B, for Red White and Tahoe Blue II, Inc. to hold the Incline Village Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration event on July 4, 2025 at the Incline Beach (APN: 127-280-01) in Incline Village; and further authorize the Director of the Planning & Building Division, Community Services Department, to issue the license when all pre-event conditions have been met.”

- A. Outdoor Festival Business License
- B. Outdoor Festival Business License Conditions of Approval
- C. Outdoor Festival Business License Application

Red White and Tahoe Blue II, PO Box 4439, Incline Village, NV 89450;
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