

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: February 5, 2019

TITLE: Establishing Speed Limits on Various Streets Based on Engineering and Traffic Survey

Prepared by: Daniel Porras, Public Works Director/City Engineer

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt an Ordinance by four-fifths vote of the City Council adopting an Engineering and Traffic Speed Limit Study, establishing maximum speed limits on Streets within the city of Desert Hot Springs, and amending section 10.32.010 of the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code; waive the reading of the Ordinance its entirety and read by title only.

DISCUSSION

The City Council is authorized by the State of California Vehicle Code to establish speed limits on local streets. In order to use radar as an enforcement tool, these speed limits must be established based on an engineering and traffic survey, in accordance with methods formulated by the State Department of Transportation, Caltrans. The speed limits established by these surveys are effective for seven (7) years and may be extended to 10 years if a registered engineer evaluates the section of the roadway and determines that no significant changes in roadway or traffic conditions have occurred. These changes could be a change in adjoining property, land use, roadway width, or traffic volume. These surveys may be performed more frequently if the Council chooses.

Title 10 of the Municipal Code governs speed limits within the City. An engineering and traffic survey was last adopted in 2012. A new engineering and traffic survey was performed by Gerald Stock, Registered Traffic Engineer #2049, with the firm of Hartzog & Crabill, which is on file with the City Clerk's Office. The City Engineer has reviewed the survey and agrees with the report and recommendations. Below is a summary of recommended changes; a detailed summary of the recommendations from the engineering report is shown in Exhibit 1.

Locations with conflicting speed postings:

1. Two Bunch Palms Trail – Little Morongo Road to West Drive
 - Remain posted at 45 mph / Remove 35 mph postings westbound

Locations for new speed limits postings:

1. Hacienda Avenue – Palm Drive to Ocotillo Road
 - New posting of 35 mph

Locations for speed limit reductions:

1. Hacienda Avenue – West Drive to Palm Drive
 - Reduce 45 mph to 40 mph

Locations for speed limit increase:

1. Little Morongo Road – Mission Lakes to Pierson Boulevard
 - Increase 45 mph to 50 mph

On January 10, 2018, the Public Safety Commission was presented with the current engineering and traffic survey along with the corresponding recommendations. The Public Safety Commission agreed with the recommendations and did not have any comments or changes.

Staff is recommending that the City Council Adopt an ordinance by four-fifths vote of the City Council rescinding the previously adopted ordinance and designating speed limits for certain specified streets; waive the reading of the ordinance in its entirety and read by title only.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the signs will be approximately \$2,000 and is currently budgeted in the Gas Tax Fund under line item 140-4371-4266.

EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Engineering and Traffic Survey Summary of Recommendations
- 2) Draft Ordinance