

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: November 19, 2019

TITLE: An Ordinance Amending Title 6 of the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code to Prohibit Roosters Within City Limits

Prepared by: Jim Henson, Chief of Police

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Staff Report;
- 2) Entertain questions of Staff from City Council;
- 3) Open the Public Hearing;
- 4) Take testimony from those in favor;
- 5) Take testimony from those opposed;
- 6) Take testimony from those in a neutral position;
- 7) Close the Public Hearing;
- 8) City Council discussion and questions to Staff; and
- 9) Introduce for First Reading and read by title only, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs, amending Sections 6.04.020, and deleting Chapter 6.05 "Crowing Roosters" of County Code Title 6 "Animals Generally," which is incorporated by reference into the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code pertaining the banning of roosters within the City.

BACKGROUND

When Animal Care and Control Services was established in March 2018, Title 6 of "The Riverside County Code" was adopted for providing animal services within city limits, specifically, Chapter 6.05 allowing for "Crowing Roosters." It allows for up to six roosters to be kept at a residence without any restrictions. If seven or more are kept, at a residence, they need to be housed in an acoustical structure from sunset to sunrise. This specific ordinance has raised complaints from residents within our community due to the noise caused by the roosters.

DISCUSSION

Along with the noise that roosters make, there are also health and sanitation issues. This creates a public nuisance and disturbs the comfort, peace, and enjoyment of neighbors. This can also negatively impact values of nearby properties and the quality of life in our community. Another aspect that needs to be addressed with keeping roosters within city limits is the possibility of illegal cockfighting. Animal Care and Control has picked up a dead rooster who had a spur attached to his leg. This type of spur is associated with cockfighting. Cockfighting can also lead to illegal gambling operations and other crimes which can place a strain on police services. By amending the above title / section to read, "It shall be unlawful for any person to keep or cause to be kept or to have in his/her possession or under his custody or control within city limits, any rooster(s)." This amended ordinance is best for the public health, safety and welfare of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no anticipated financial impact in amending Title 6 regarding Crowing Roosters.

EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Proposed Ordinance