

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: May 5, 2020

TITLE: An Ordinance Amending Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code Section 17.40.110 Fences, Walls and Hedges

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RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Staff Report;
- 2) Entertain questions of Staff from the City Council
- 3) Open Public Hearing;
- 4) Take public testimony from those favor;
- 5) Take public testimony from those opposed;
- 6) Take public 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, California Amending Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code Section 17.40.110 Fences, Walls and Hedges"

DISCUSSION

The City of Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code ("DHSMC") regulates fences in Section 17.40.110. The DHSMC currently provides that the Director of Development Services must make findings in order for an applicant to erect a fence. Such findings are cumbersome and impede the development of fences, especially where fences are necessary.

The proposed Ordinance seeks to: 1) not require such findings as they are cumbersome to development and are not needed; 2) allow for more color options for block walls, so long as the colors match or compliment the adjacent structures; and 3) allows for chain link fencing for properties over 5 acres where the Code Compliance Manager deems that fencing is needed to inhibit nuisances.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 14, 2020 and recommended City Council approve the Ordinance with the following changes to the proposed Ordinance:

- Remove the allowance for chain-link fencing on the street frontage of vacant properties and allow split rail fencing
- Remove Post and Wire (to be replaced with split rail)

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

EXHIBIT(S)

- 1) Proposed Ordinance