

City of Blaine
Request for Council Action
Meeting Date: July 8, 2019

Subject: Resolution 1765-19, Seeking designation of all unincorporated portions of Drayton Harbor Aquatic Area, Tidelands and Shoreline as a no shooting zone pursuant to Whatcom County Code 9.32.

Department: City Manager

Prepared By: Michael Jones

Agenda Location: Consent Agenda Council Action Unfinished Business

Attachments:

1. Resolution 1765-19
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Background/Summary:

Although portions of Drayton Harbor are within the City limits, other portions are within Whatcom County jurisdiction. Whereas it is legal to discharge firearms in unincorporated Whatcom County, it is illegal to do so in the City limits of Blaine.

The Blaine City Council has expressed concern with the fact that members of the public are unhappy about the discharge of firearms near the City. Residents are concerned about gunfire happening near homes and property. Since housing density is increasing around Drayton Harbor, the concerns of discharging firearms in a residential area will only increase.

Based on Council direction, the City Manager developed the resolution to seek designation of all the aquatic areas and tidelands within Drayton Harbor located within Whatcom County as a no shooting zone pursuant to Whatcom County Code Section 9.32.

If the Resolution is approved, the City Manager will bring this to the Whatcom County Council for their consideration.

Budget Implications: Current Budget New Budget Request Non-Budgetary

There are no budget implications with this Resolution.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends City Council approve Resolution 1765-19, seeking designation of all unincorporated portions of Drayton Harbor Aquatic Area, Tidelands and Shoreline as a no shooting zone pursuant to Whatcom County Code 9.32.

Reviewed By:

City Manager _____ Finance Director _____ City Clerk _____
(Digital Signature) (Digital Signature) (Digital Signature)

RESOLUTION NO. 1765-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON, TO SEEK DESIGNATION OF ALL UNINCORPORATED PORTIONS OF DRAYTON HARBOR AQUATIC AREA, TIDELANDS AND SHORELINE AS A NO SHOOTING ZONE PURSUANT TO WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 9.32 .

Whereas, portions of the Drayton Harbor aquatic area, tidelands and shoreline are within the city limits, and

Whereas, portions of Drayton Harbor aquatic area, tidelands and shoreline are within Whatcom County jurisdiction, and

Whereas, hunting and the discharge of firearms is prohibited in the city limits, and

Whereas, it is difficult for members of the public to distinguish between incorporated and unincorporated areas particularly on the open water, which causes numerous hunters to inadvertently move into areas where hunting and discharge of firearms is illegal, and

Whereas, our citizens have expressed concerns about gunfire near homes and property and repeatedly call for police response to such incidents, and

Whereas, unincorporated portion of Drayton Harbor aquatic area, tidelands and shoreline are within and adjacent to urban growth areas, and

Whereas, population is expanding and housing density is increasing within the areas surrounding Drayton Harbor both within the City and an areas or unincorporated Whatcom County,

Whereas, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 36.32.120) provides Whatcom County authority to designate no shooting zones, and

Whereas, Whatcom County Code Section 9.32 “Unlawful Discharge of Firearms” designates twenty-two no shooting zones, most lying within and adjacent to cities, urban growth areas and other locations of higher density development,

Now therefore, the City Council of the City of Blaine hereby resolves to seek designation of all the aquatic areas and tidelands within Drayton Harbor located within Whatcom County as a no shooting zone pursuant to Whatcom County Code Section 9.32.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON, on the 8th day of July, 2019, and approved by the Mayor on the same day.

CITY OF BLAINE, WASHINGTON

Bonnie Onyon, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATE:

Samuel Crawford, City Clerk