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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JEFFERSON COUNTY ADOPTS ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM TO DEVELOP REGULATIONS FOR MODIFYING EXISTING AND ESTABLISHING NEW COMMERCIAL SHOOTING FACILITIES

On Monday, December 18, 2017, the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt an Ordinance establishing a moratorium of up to one year on permits to modify existing or establish new commercial shooting facilities in unincorporated Jefferson County. Consistent with state law, a public hearing will be held on the Moratorium Ordinance within 60 days of its passage today.

A key goal of passing the Ordinance is to develop and adopt regulations within the next year which will preserve and protect the continued viability of commercial shooting facilities in Jefferson County in the face of increasing population pressure and density of conflicting land uses. The moratorium adopts a one-year work program during which Jefferson County will assess the impacts of existing and future commercial shooting facilities on public safety, the environment, and land use compatibility, and identify reasonable mitigating measures. Commercial shooting facilities benefit Jefferson County residents by providing residents and law enforcement the opportunity to learn firearm safety, practice shooting, and participate in amateur recreational firearm sports in a safe, controlled, and environmentally-sound setting.

Through the Ordinance, the County Commissioners are creating a 9-member citizen Review Committee to advise the County as the County develops a draft ordinance over the next year. Committee members will be appointed by the Commissioners, including the Director of the Department of Community Development or her designee, the County Sheriff or his designee, the Director of Environmental Health or his designee, a representative of each current commercial shooting facility, a resident or property owner from each of the three Commissioner Districts, a representative of tribal interests if they wish, and one at-large County resident or property owner. The County will be hiring a consultant to provide expertise and professional support to help the Review Committee and the County in their work.

(MORE)

The Review Committee will advise the County on developing reasonable regulations for commercial shooting facilities, which draft would be presented for adoption as an ordinance by the County Commissioners within the coming year.

The Ordinance creating the moratorium is authorized under state law pursuant to RCW 36.70.795, RCW 36.70A.390 and Article 11, Section 11 of the Washington State Constitution, for up to one year, with a work plan for Jefferson County's planning agency as part of the Ordinance.

A copy of Ordinance 05-1218-17 is attached.

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