



City of Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 97.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JULY 1, 2009

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT: SUP-3355 - SPECIAL USE PERMIT - PUBLIC HEARING - APPLICANT/OWNER: ETTORE AND BRENDA VANCHERI. Request for Special Use Permit FOR THE KEEPING OF 300 CARRIAGE RACING PIGEONS at 6300 West Ann Road (APN 125-26-403-016), R-E (Residence Excluded Zone, Ward 6 (Ross)). Staff recommends DENIAL. The Planning Commission (6-0 vote) recommends APPROVAL.

PROTESTS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

City Council Meeting

APPROVALS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

City Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends DENIAL. The Planning Commission (6-0 vote) recommends APPROVAL, subject to conditions.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Location and Aerial Maps
2. Conditions and Staff Report
3. Supporting Documentation
4. Photos
5. Justification Letter
6. Protest Postcards
7. Submitted after Final Agenda Protest Postcards/ Letter
8. Submitted at Meeting Support E-mail
9. Backup referenced from the May 28, 2009 Planning Commission Meeting Item 24

Motion made by STEVEN D. ROSS to Deny

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS, STAVROS S. ANTHONY; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

MAYOR GOODMAN declared the Public Hearing open.

ETTORE and BRENDA VANCHERI were present. MRS. VANCHERI stated that the main misconception is that people believe pigeons fly around the neighborhoods, land on roofs or backyards leaving a mess. This is not the case with racing birds and she detailed how the birds

CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: JULY 1, 2009

are trained. They acquire the birds when they are four weeks old and are kept in the loft until four months old. At that time, their wings are clipped to prevent them from flying. By allowing the birds out of the loft for a few minutes, they become familiar with their surroundings and make a homing imprint. The birds are let out of the loft a section at a time. At five to six months old, the birds are trained to race competitively. Her husband maintains the birds and the property, cleans and disinfects the loft daily. A fly-misting system was installed over the horse stalls. The pedigree birds are medicated, vaccinated and given vitamins and males and females are kept separate. The noise level is not an issue as they sleep at night and most of the life is spent inside the loft. When they are out of the loft, it is within a contained environment. The birds fly on an empty stomach and are trained to know that the food is in the loft.

As suggested by the Planning Commissioners, MRS. VANCHERI will be organizing a club to educate people on the sport of racing pigeons.

MAYOR GOODMAN indicated he received a letter from WILL FONTE, which he submitted for the record.

TEDDY RUSSELL, Las Vegas resident, stated WILL FONTE and CHILL had a statue designed to be electrified to keep pigeons away.

GREG KOZLOWICZ clarified that the City Council could request a one-year review period, as imposed by the Planning Commission.

DAVE WOOTEN appeared in support stating it is a fun sport. He indicated that at one time he also owned racing pigeons. Racing pigeons could bring many people to Las Vegas.

COUNCILMAN ROSS indicated he resides in the vicinity and looked into this sport, and pointed out that 73 protests and two letters in support were received. He found it hard-pressed to support this and the Planning Commission's one-year review, but his concern is that there are too many pigeons in the neighborhood. The neighbors feel that 300 pigeons would be too noisy and create lots of waste. MS. VANCHERI responded that the existing pigeons are wild and are different from homing pigeons. COUNCILMAN ROSS read an article about a similar event by the same charity, City of Hope, that caused problems to nearby residents by the racing pigeons. He does not believe this is the right location for this type of use.

MAYOR GOODMAN declared the Public Hearing closed.