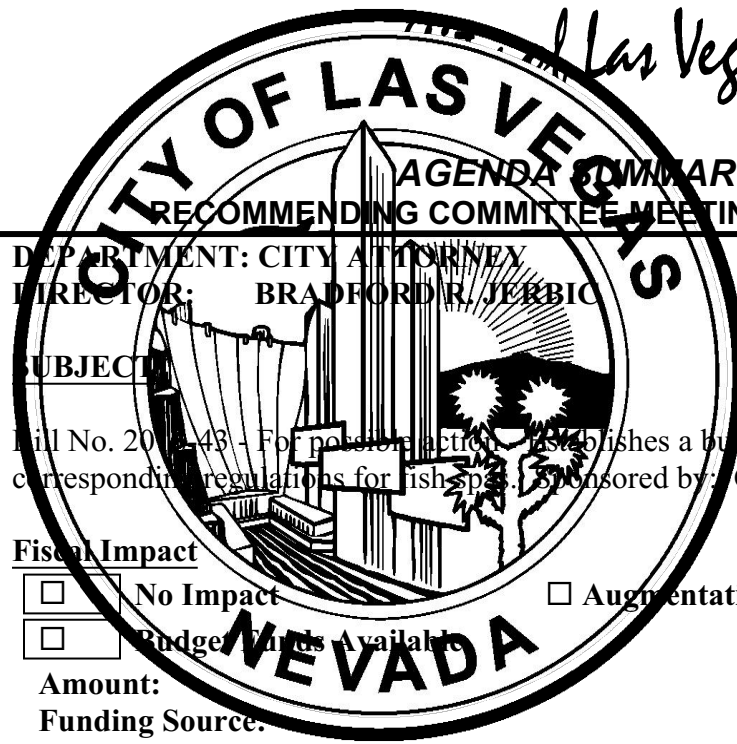




Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 3.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: OCTOBER 1, 2018

DEPARTMENT: CITY ATTORNEY
DIRECTOR: BRADFORD R. JERBIC

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Bill No. 2018-43 - For positive action - Establishes a business licensing category and corresponding regulations for fish spas. Sponsored by: Councilwoman Michele Fiore

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐ Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

This bill will establish a business licensing category and corresponding regulations for fish spas. The activity to be licensed involves the use of garra rufafish to remove dry or dead skin from human feet or hands by means of cleaning or exfoliation. The bill establishes minimum standards and requirements for the operation of a fish spa.

RECOMMENDATION:

This bill should be submitted to a Recommending Committee for review, hearing and recommendation to the City Council for final action.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Bill No. 2018-43
2. Submitted at Meeting - Documentation Regarding Fish Pedicures and Fish Spas Submitted by Dr. Joseph Adashek

Motion made by MICHELE FIORE to Hold in abeyance to 11/5/2018

Passed For: 3; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

BOB COFFIN, STAVROS S. ANTHONY, MICHELE FIORE; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing open.

COUNCILWOMAN FIORE requested the item be held in abeyance to the 11/5/2018 Recommending Committee meeting with no further discussion.

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: OCTOBER 01, 2018

DR. JOEY ADASHEK, former President of the Clark County Medical Society, stated that there have been no studies conducted to show that fish pedicures are safe. He noted the Board of Cosmetology in Arizona was sued because it denied the allowance of pedicures with fish due to safety; the denial was upheld in court. DR. ADASHEK did not feel there was any way to make fish pedicures safe and cited reports of feet infections in other countries. He was in opposition and submitted an article for the record.

COUNCILWOMAN FIORE thanked DR. ADASHEK for his comments but indicated her office had not received any requests to discuss this item nor any information from DR. ADASHEK. She stated for the record that there was nothing that states fish pedicures are not safe. Referencing DR. ADASHEK'S comments regarding feet infections, she clarified that the story about a woman whose toes fell off was not from a fish pedicure; the woman had a toe infection. The Councilwoman offered to meet with DR. ADASHEK to further discuss his concerns.

DR. ADASHEK asserted information could be found on the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) website.

DR. JOE ISNER, District Health Officer for the Southern Nevada Health District, stated that he had contacted COUNCILWOMAN FIORE'S office. She informed this stating that she had reached out to the Southern Nevada Health District to inquire if they would be interested in regulating fish pedicures. They were not interested. The Councilwoman reiterated her request to hold the item in abeyance.

DR. ISNER indicated he had contacted the Councilwoman's office personally but spoke to DAN BURDISH, Special Assistant to City Council, as COUNCILWOMAN FIORE was out of the country. At the request of COUNCILWOMAN FIORE, MR. BURDISH explained that DR. ISNER had contacted him but not about the Bill.

COUNCILMAN ANTHONY requested to hear DR. ISNER'S opinion on the Bill.

DR. ISNER stated that he was happy to provide his opinion but was also available to return on November 5th. He was adamantly opposed to the Bill noting he had fought against the subject twice in the Nevada Legislature because of health and safety concerns for the same things DR. ADASHEK stated. DR. ISNER noted he had read through some of the verbatim reporting during the legislative session. He discussed how one individual claimed how fish and humans are so far apart phylogenetically that very few infections can infect humans. DR. ISNER asked each Councilperson to Google 'fish zoonoses', as there are a variety of infections fish can transmit to humans and stated that he had prepared remarks that he would email to the Councilmembers. DR. ISNER asserted it was his job to protect Nevada's citizens and visitors from infections and other concerns.

In response to COUNCILMAN ANTHONY, DR. ISNER affirmed a bill was introduced twice in the State Legislature possibly in 2013 or 2015. COUNCILWOMAN FIORE corrected it was during the 2017 session and was a traded bill. She wished to set the record straight by saying

RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE MEETING OF: OCTOBER 01, 2018

that humans give more diseases to other humans, and in America, there has been no proven disease transmitted from a fish to a human. DR. ISNER stated he would be happy to talk to COUNCILMEMBERS ANTHONY and FIORE. He would return on 11/5/2018.

COUNCILWOMAN FIORE called MARY McELHONE, Deputy Planning Director, forward to share what the Southern Nevada Health District has said about regulation on the Bill.

MS. McELHONE stated that in January and February of 2018 when staff was asked to draft this bill, staff contacted different divisions and departments throughout the State and locally. One of these was the Southern Nevada Health District. Staff was told this was not part of their jurisdiction and that they were neutral on this subject. MS. McELHONE also spoke with CHRISTOPHER LYNCH, Director of the Nevada Business Environmental Program (BEP) at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), who informed her he could not find anything relevant in the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection regulations nor those of the Southern Nevada Health District. He also made calls to the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services - Office for Consumer Health Assistance, but they indicated they did not have any jurisdiction either and referred MR. LYNCH to the Board of Cosmetology.

By way of calling for the motion, COUNCILMAN ANTHONY declared the Public Hearing closed.

