



STOREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff

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RE: Innovation zone concerns -

Let me start by stating that the Storey County Sheriff's Office is fully capable of handling any transition within the county proposed by the Innovation Zone (IZ). This is not to say there would not be obstacles that would need to be addressed or overcome. In reviewing the proposed language, the following are concerns and logistical issues that would need clarification or redress for the Storey County Sheriff's Office.

#1 – If an IZ attains any significant level of development but chooses not to provide its own law enforcement as allowed in the proposed legislation, how will continued funding be secured? They (IZ) have the ability to charge fees and collect taxes, but the proposed bill allows the provision of services ala carte. For the sake of discussion, should an IZ develop a “city center” with several businesses and residential properties; collect taxes therefrom which are no longer going to Storey County; have seated their own board of supervisors; etc. – how will funding for law enforcement be handled?

In examples given of other similar zones, California's City of Industry is treated as a contract city and billed by the Sheriff's Office for services. In Disney's Florida GID, they utilize private security and “contract” with the Sheriff's Office for a deputy to be present who handles only serious issues that go beyond the capacity of the security officers. More local examples would be the City of Wells or Ely in Nevada who contract and pay for services provided by their respective Sheriff's Offices.

#2 – Additional clarification as it relates to Concern #1. In an early draft, the proposed legislation allowed for the contracting of services through adjacent jurisdictions. The current language does not have the proximity clause and appears to allow for contract services through any jurisdiction in the state. This would allow for agencies say from LVMPD or Eureka County Sheriff's Office to bid/compete as a service provider. This can lead to extremely difficult logistics and turnover of providers for significant governmental resources that are seen as available and necessary to every citizen of the state. Would failures or lag time in turn overs default to the host (Storey) county?

#3 – The IZ as being proposed in Storey County causes significant logistical challenges by dividing Storey County into eight different, noncontiguous areas. Currently we already must staff both north and south ends of the county independently due to geographic challenges. This proposal creates more significant issues of separation. While a few of the areas are not inhabited, residents and businesses in Painted Rock, the main area of the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center, Comstock Meadows area as it becomes further developed, as well as the remainder of the county may suffer a reduction in services due to the greater separation while increasing traffic/population volumes in between service areas.

It also creates greater likelihood of cross-jurisdictional problems if and when the IZ is positioned to provide services itself or through contracting with others. An emergency response from say the TRIC area to the Painted Rock residential area could require a code run (lights & siren) through a much more

densely developed area increasing risk to the public and responding deputies. While any development poses this type of issue, under the IZ, the newly developed area may not be as well known to deputies who no longer routinely patrol these "in-between" locations.

#4 – The same concerns, particularly as they apply to jail resources and the housing of potential arrestees must also be a consideration.

#5 – With the IZ, while still being serviced by the host county, we have the potential for legal confusion. Should the occasion arise where the IZ has its own board of supervisors but not yet be providing its own services, the creation of ordinances that could be disparate from that of Storey County are problematic in enforcing in a meaningful manner. State law remains the same regardless of the jurisdiction, but local ordinances and code could create confusion and disparate treatment from one area to another within Storey County which leads to issues for the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, and the Justice Court.

#6 – As development begins in an IZ, human and equipment resources will have to be increased to provide services to the requisite levels. This may be a series of small increases or result in significant increases depending upon the development plan of the IZ. This could provide a significant burden on Sheriff's Office budget and county taxpayers. How will such upscaling be funded?

In my experience, when a new venture comes to a jurisdiction that can heavily tax existing resources, oft times there is some agreement enacted to compensate or offset initial impacts – such as traffic control devices when vehicle traffic is significantly impacted or some sort of payment/grant to cover initial expenses relating to equipment/resources that are only required due to the new venture.

#7 – As a follow up to the previous concern, when and if an IZ takes over law enforcement services, will consideration be given to additional staffing/equipment that the Sheriff's Office has had to bring on to provide services to that point? In other words, rather than having to terminate excessive bodies who may no longer be needed by the Sheriff's Office, will any plan be in place for the new IZ law enforcement to absorb those extra resources both human and equipment that may no longer be needed by the Sheriff's Office?

These are concerns and challenges that I see as of this time. Should there be a need for further clarification of any of the points herein, please let me know.

Respectfully,

