



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: September 11, 2012

##

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING CLINICS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY:

Overview

San Diego County Code currently prohibits the general public from possessing, owning or keeping venomous reptiles, with an exemption for a legally operated zoo, circus, educational institution or scientific research facility. This presents a challenge for animal trainers who wish to host rattlesnake avoidance training clinics in the unincorporated areas of the County. Local animal trainers and residents recently have requested that the County explore solutions that would allow an exemption for rattlesnake avoidance training clinics hosted by legitimate animal training businesses. Addressing this matter from a business perspective would allow for residents to have the choice as to whether or not they would like for their animals to participate in rattlesnake avoidance clinics in unincorporated areas of the County while still serving the intended purpose of protecting the public's safety.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to work with County Counsel to explore options that would allow rattlesnake avoidance training in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR JACOB AND SUPERVISOR HORN

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to work with County Counsel to explore options that would allow rattlesnake avoidance training in the unincorporated areas of the County, provided that the training is conducted by a fully insured state registered business or nonprofit organization in good standing with the state and return to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days with recommendations.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement

SUBJECT: RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING CLINICS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Potential changes to San Diego County Code Chapter 6, Section 62.681 could allow for legitimate animal training businesses to conduct rattlesnake avoidance training clinics in the unincorporated areas of the County and provide the public with the option to participate in the training if they wish to do so.

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

San Diego County Code currently prohibits the general public from possessing, owning or keeping venomous reptiles, with an exemption for a legally operated zoo, circus, educational institution or scientific research facility. This presents a challenge for animal trainers who wish to host rattlesnake avoidance training clinics in the unincorporated areas of the County. Local animal trainers and residents recently have requested that the County explore solutions that would allow an exemption for rattlesnake avoidance animal training clinics hosted by legitimate animal training businesses.

The ordinance, in its current form, presents a negative economic impact to animal training businesses that wish to conduct rattlesnake avoidance training in unincorporated areas of the region. Further, many residents have shared that they believe that rattlesnake avoidance training is beneficial and that these clinics should be available to the public as a training option. The goal is to achieve a balance between the desire for animal training businesses to host these clinics for residents who choose to participate in this type of training, while ensuring that the general public remains prohibited from owning, possessing or keeping venomous reptiles.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to work with County Counsel to explore options that would allow rattlesnake avoidance training in the unincorporated areas of the County, provided that the training is conducted by a fully insured state registered business or nonprofit organization in good standing with the state and return to the Board of Supervisors within 60 days with recommendations.

We urge your support.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT

BILL HORN
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

SUBJECT: RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING CLINICS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 2 and District 5, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

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