

Title 4, Business Licenses, Permits, and Regulation, Chapter 21 - Charitable Organizations and Solicitations

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To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

August 13, 2024

The Honorable Mayor Hillary Schieve

Members of the City Council

The Honorable Devon Reese

The Honorable Jenny Brekhus

The Honorable Naomi Duerr

The Honorable Miguel Martinez

The Honorable Meghan Ebert

The Honorable Kathleen Taylor

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed new code, Title 4, Business Licenses, Permits, and Regulation, Chapter 21 – Charitable Organizations and Solicitations. This proposal introduces several new requirements for charitable organizations, and we are concerned that it will impose an undue burden on legitimate charities.

Charitable organizations are already subject to rigorous oversight at both the federal and state levels. Under federal law, organizations must adhere to 501(c)(3) requirements and file Form 990, while Nevada statutes also impose detailed regulatory requirements. Given this existing framework, it is unclear why additional local regulations are necessary.

We also question whether the city possesses the resources needed to effectively review and enforce the new requirements outlined in this proposal. Implementing and overseeing these regulations will likely require significant administrative effort and financial resources. Without such resources, the effectiveness of these regulations is questionable.

If the intent behind this proposal is to combat illegal fundraising activities, it is worth noting that legitimate charities are already under scrutiny from federal and state agencies designed to prevent and address illegal operations. There has been no evidence of a recent increase in illegal fundraising that would justify the introduction of these new local regulations. The proposal seems to overlook the fact that existing regulatory bodies are already equipped to handle such issues. This new code would

divert resources and attention from our core missions, counteracting the spirit of supporting charitable work in our community.

It is also troubling that local charities, which play a vital role in our community, were not specifically notified about the public hearings concerning this code. A proposal of this magnitude, which would impose new, unnecessary, and onerous requirements on local charities, should have involved outreach to affected organizations. We believe we could have been a valuable resource to the city in this process.

In light of these concerns, we urge the City Council to reject the proposed code addition identified as Title 4, Business Licenses, Permits, and Regulation, Chapter 21 – Charitable Organizations and Solicitations. It is essential to ensure that any regulatory measures adopted are both necessary and effective without imposing undue hardship on organizations dedicated to serving our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope you will consider our concerns and work towards a solution that supports and enhances the vital work of our local charitable organizations. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our concerns in detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

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