

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE 9.32, UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE
OF FIREARMS, TO ESTABLISH A NO SHOOTING ZONE IN THE
DRAYTON HARBOR AREA OF WHATCOM COUNTY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Whatcom County Code 9.32.050, the County Council may, upon its own initiative, pass a resolution declaring its intent to form a no shooting zone; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2019, the County Council approved Resolution #2019-035, declaring its intent to conduct a hearing in consideration of creating a no shooting zone in the Drayton Harbor area of Whatcom County, as requested by the City of Blaine; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Whatcom County Code 9.32.020 and RCW 36.32.120, the County Council has the authority and power to establish no shooting zones; and

WHEREAS, a “no shooting zone” is an area designated by the County Council in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, RCW 9.41.300 (2) specifically states that counties may enact laws and ordinances restricting the discharge of firearms in any portion of their respective jurisdiction where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, according to the request submitted by the City of Blaine (see City of Blaine Resolution No. 1765-19, attached as Exhibit A to this resolution):

- It is difficult for members of the public to distinguish between incorporated and unincorporated areas, particularly on open water, which causes numerous hunters to inadvertently move into areas where hunting and discharge of firearms is illegal;
- Citizens have expressed concerns about gunfire near homes and property and repeatedly call for police response to such incidents;
- Unincorporated portions of Drayton Harbor aquatic area, tidelands, and shoreline are within and adjacent to urban growth areas;
- Population is expanding and housing density is increasing within the areas surrounding Drayton Harbor both within the City and in areas of unincorporated Whatcom County; and

WHEREAS, twenty three other “no shooting” zones have been established throughout Whatcom County as a means to protect the public.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new section of Whatcom County Code 9.32 shall be added to create a no-shooting zone in the Drayton Harbor area as outlined in Exhibit B to this ordinance.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2019.

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Rud Browne, Council Chair

() Approved () Denied

Jack Louws, Executive

Date: _____

Exhibit A
(Drayton Harbor No Shooting Zone)

9.32.350 No shooting zone number 24 established.

A. No shooting zone number 24 is also known as the Drayton Harbor area.

B. The boundaries are described as follows:

That portion of Sections 7 and 18, Township 40 North, Range 1 East and Sections 1, 2, 11, 12 and 13, Township 40 North, Range 1 West, W.M., Whatcom County, Washington described as follows: Beginning along Drayton Harbor Road (Co. Rd. No. 37) at the intersection of the ordinary high water mark of Drayton Harbor with the limits of the city of Blaine, Whatcom County, Washington; thence easterly along said ordinary high water mark to the intersection with the northerly face of an existing bridge over California Creek; thence easterly along said northerly bridge face to the intersection with said ordinary high water mark; thence northerly along said ordinary high water mark to the intersection with said city limits; thence along said city limits westerly, northerly and southerly to the point of beginning.

