

**BRIEFING PAPER**  
**City of Spokane**  
**Planning Services Department**  
**August 26, 2015**

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**Subject**

Proposal to amend Spokane Municipal Code to allow electric fences in commercial and industrial zones.

**Background**

Electric Guard Dog LLC is seeking a Text Amendment to the Spokane City fence code, to allow business owners in commercial and industrial zones to install electric fence security systems. The current code does not permit fences or barriers charged with electricity in residential, commercial, downtown, or industrial zones. In Residential Agricultural (RA) zones, the use is permitted for the containment of livestock only.

The text amendment is to allow the installation of electric fence security systems with the following features:

- Powered by commercial storage battery not to exceed 12 volts DC.
- Battery is charged primarily by a solar panel; can be augmented by commercial trickle charger.
- Electric fences shall have a height of ten feet.
- Electric fences shall be completely surrounded by a non-electrical fence or wall that is not less than six feet.
- Location: Permitted on any non-residential outdoor storage areas.
- Warning Signs: electric fences shall be clearly identified with warning signs at intervals of not less than sixty feet.
- Electric fences shall be governed and regulated under burglar alarm regulations and permitted as such.

**Impact**

Electric fences are a tool to deter crime. The Fire, Building, and Planning Departments have developed a list of possible issues and impacts this proposal may have. See attached document highlighting concerns and response from applicant (Technical Advisory Committee Questions –EGD Responses).

**Funding**

This is a private application. The applicant has paid the application fee required for text amendments.

**Action**

This is a workshop to introduce the application and received initial feedback from the Plan Commission.

**Attachments:**

- Text amendment application
- Summary of Electric Guard Dog Security System
- The University of Wisconsin Madison Safety Report
- YRC Site Plans
- Technical Advisory Committee Questions – Electric Dog Security (EGD) Responses
- IEC Standard
- MetLab Report 2014