

ITEM: **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01: REPEALING THE EQUESTRIAN PRESERVATION ELEMENT AND REPLACING WITH THE EQUESTRIAN ELEMENT.**

AN ORDINANCE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA'S COUNCIL AMENDING THE WELLINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, MORE SPECIFICALLY, TO REPEAL THE EQUESTRIAN PRESERVATION ELEMENT AND REPLACE WITH THE EQUESTRIAN ELEMENT, INCLUDING ANY ELEMENT MAPS, IN ITS ENTIRETY, AS CONTAINED HEREIN; PROVIDING A CONFLICTS CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

PUBLIC HEARING: **YES** **QUASI-JUDICIAL:** **NO**

EXPLANATION: The Wellington Comprehensive Plan is being updated. The Plan forms the blueprint for Wellington's future for the next 10 to 20 years. The Plan is comprised of 10 "elements" or chapters and each element consists of goals, objectives, and policies to guide development and redevelopment, transportation, infrastructure, parks, and capital improvements.

SUMMARY: The update of the Equestrian Element builds upon the original ideas adopted in 1999 to manage development and reorganizes the principles, guidelines, strategies, and standards into three distinct goals – Equestrian Lifestyle; Multi-Modal Transportation Network; and Equestrian Competition Industry. Some of the continuing concepts for the element include:

- Preservation of the equestrian lifestyle
- Development Regulations that maintain the overall density of the EPA
- Provision for limited commercial uses that support the equestrian industry
- Continuation of the Equestrian Circulation Plan
- Pursuit of bridle trail easements or dedications to create a well-connected, public network within the EPA
- Pursuit of trail projects that link to local, county, state, and federal lands
- Support of the equestrian competition industry

The proposed plan also includes several new objectives and policies to address changing trends and conditions in Wellington. The following are new concepts in the plan:

- Evaluation of the impacts of farm operation, venue operation, and land development on water quantity and quality in the EPA
- Horse waste disposal alternative solutions
- Expansion of Lake Worth Road from 120th Avenue South to South Shore Boulevard from two lanes to four lanes
- A regulatory framework that provides for the operation of golf carts and low-speed vehicles in the EPA
- Continued work with area agencies and organizations to quantify the equestrian industry's economic impact
- Evaluation of Wellington's codes, standards, programs, and policies to support the equestrian competition industry

The Equestrian Element was reviewed by the EPC at multiple meetings. At the January meeting, the EPC voted 4-1 to recommend denial of the proposed Equestrian Element to the PZAB. The minutes of all meetings have been made part of the staff report for review and further explanation. |