

JUL 01 2014

ELLIS COUNTY CLERK'S DEPT.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 – 21

A RESOLUTION MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO SELL, BUY, AND/OR DISCHARGE FIREWORKS, SKY LANTERNS, OR SIMILAR DEVICES IN RURAL ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS

WHEREAS, Ellis County's climate is normally arid each year by the time of the 4th of July holiday period during which the state of Kansas allows selling, buying, and discharge of fireworks, sky lanterns, or similar devices, and

WHEREAS, each year, the Ellis County Commission struggles to determine whether allowing the sale and discharge of fireworks, sky lanterns, and similar devices in rural Ellis County is a viable option based on the anticipation of dry or drought conditions in the rural areas, and

WHEREAS, the Ellis County Commission believes discharging fireworks, sky lanterns, and similar devices in rural areas is very different than doing so in urban areas because turf grass does not burn like harvested farm fields, road ditches often contain dead or dry weeds and grass that can act as fuel for a fire, and the fact that a fire is able to smolder and start in rural areas because they are often discharged where people do not observe or monitor the landing area of fireworks, and

WHEREAS, the Ellis County Commission believes helping to insure the health, safety, and property of Ellis County residents and visitors through policies that discourage potentially dangerous behavior such as discharging fireworks in areas of high fire danger is a duty of a county commission, and

WHEREAS, the Ellis County Commission considers it a fruitless process to raise expectations of the ability to discharge fireworks, sky lanterns, and similar devices each year only to be faced with a decision in mid-June each year that discharge of fireworks is not a good idea due to likely dry or drought conditions,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS COUNTY COMMISSION that Resolution 2012-18 is hereby repealed and that from this point forward, the sale, purchase, and/or discharge of fireworks, sky lanterns, and similar devices in rural Ellis County is considered illegal and subject to a fine of up to \$500.

APPROVED BY THE ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS COUNTY COMMISSION this 15th day of July, 2013.



ELLIS COUNTY COMMISSION

Dean Haselhorst

Dean Haselhorst, Chair

Barbara K. Wasinger

Barbara K. Wasinger, Commissioner

Swede Holmgren

Swede Holmgren, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Donna J. Maskus

Donna J. Maskus, Clerk