

January 23, 2017

City of Lee's Summit
220 SE Green Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

City Council Members;

Jackson County Environmental Health has enjoyed the working relationship we have with the city of Lee's Summit. We provide a food service sanitation program and hotel and motel sanitation services as indicated in the Health and Environmental Services Agreement with Jackson County. In our endeavors to protect the public from health concerns we are proposing an ordinance to regulate aquatic venues. As defined in 192.092 RSMo and 19 CSR 20-3.020 an aquatic venue would include public swimming pools, hot tubs, spray grounds, and pools where the public, members and their guests, customers and patrons would have reasonable access. This would include home owner's association pools, apartment complexes, hotels and motels, clubs, schools, gyms, hospitals and workplaces. We are proposing an annual permit fee of \$150.00 to cover actual costs of performing the services. Seasonal venues would be inspected at least twice a year with an initial inspection before the pool opens and indoor venues at least 3 times a year. Regulating swimming pools is a health department service that is provided in several jurisdictions including Kansas City, Independence, Clay County, Cass County, and Platte County.

The code we are proposing addresses safety issues and helps to control Recreational water illnesses (RWIs) through inspection and chemical testing. RWIs include a wide variety of infections, such as gastrointestinal, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections. The most commonly reported RWI is diarrhea. Diarrheal illnesses are caused by germs such as *Crypto* (short for *Cryptosporidium*), *Giardia*, *Shigella*, *norovirus* and *E. coli* O157:H7. With RWI outbreaks on the rise, Jackson County Environmental Health Division needs to take an active role in helping to protect and prevent the spread of germs to the general public.

In the past two decades, there has been a substantial increase in the number of RWI outbreaks associated with swimming. *Crypto*, which can stay alive for days even in well-maintained pools, has become the leading cause of swimming pool-related outbreaks of diarrheal illness. From 2004 to 2008, reported *Crypto* cases increased over 200% (from 3,411 cases in 2004 to 10,500 cases in 2008).

Although *Crypto* is tolerant to chlorine, most germs are not. Keeping chlorine at recommended levels is essential to maintain a healthy pool. However, a 2010 study by the Center for Disease Control found that 1 in 8 public pool inspections resulted in pools being closed immediately due to serious code violations such as improper chlorine levels.

In our endeavors to continue to protect the general public from health concerns we are proposing an ordinance to regulate aquatic venues, similar to other County agencies nationwide. We have collaborated with local parks and recreation departments to create the attached ordinance. A meeting was held that all hotels, apartment complexes, Home Owner Association pools, and pool maintenance companies were invited to discuss the ordinance. Before we move forward we would like to know that we have your support. Please review the attached documents and ordinance, at this time we are requesting a letter from the city stating your support for ordinance regulating aquatic venues. Please mail your response to the mailing address below or dsees@jacksongov.org. In the event Jackson County moves forward with the aquatic venue program the Agreement for Environmental Services will need to be updated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deb Sees". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed contact information.

Environmental Health Administrator
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Grain Valley, MO 64029
816-847-7070