



# WASHOE COUNTY

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HR  *na*  
Grant Mgt.  *na*

## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 28, 2016

**DATE:** June 9, 2016  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Aaron Kenneston, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program  
(775) 337-5898, Akenneston@WashoeCounty.us  
**THROUGH:** Al Rogers, Management Services Director  
**SUBJECT:** Approval for creation and recognition of Washoe County's Gerlach  
Combination Fire Department. (Commission District 5)

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### SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for creation and recognition of Washoe County's Gerlach  
Combination Fire Department.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

The Washoe County Clerk's Office has records of the Board of County Commissioners  
acknowledging and supporting the former Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD)  
since its incorporation in 1961.

### BACKGROUND

Although the County has records of volunteer fire department activity much earlier, in  
1961 the Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Service was incorporated  
and recognized by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners. It was re-  
incorporated again in 1979 under the name Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD).

The 501c(3) status of the GVFD has proved unsustainable and the volunteers allowed the  
incorporation to elapse. The Fire Protection duties were covered as an interim measure  
by the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District from January 1, 2016 until July 1, 2016.

This action establishes Washoe County's Gerlach Combination Fire Department (to be  
known simply as the Gerlach Fire Department, or GFD) under the authority of NRS  
244.157. This department is to be staffed by a combination of full-time employees (Fire  
Services Community Coordinator [FSCC] and Fire Protection Officer [FPO]) and  
volunteers beginning July 1, 2016.

AGENDA ITEM #

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The GFD will be stationed at the former Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) facilities located at 420 Cottonwood St., Gerlach, NV 89412; and will operate fire suppression and emergency medical services in the area North of Township 22, specifically from the Northern border of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to the Oregon Border.

Because the GFD is located North of Township 22 it is part of the Washoe County Manager's Office, Management Services, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Fire Suppression Program. The department is managed by the Washoe County Emergency Management Administrator. The GFD receives operational direction, logistics support, and fire-specific administrative services through an Inter-Local Agreement with the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District (TMFPD).

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There exists sufficient budget authority within the Washoe County Fire Suppression budget for anticipated costs related to the Gerlach Fire Department.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation to approve the creation and recognition of Washoe County's Gerlach Combination Fire Department.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"move to approve and recognize the creation of Washoe County's Gerlach Combination Fire Department."*