

### Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NEVADA,  
County of Washoe—SS.

Mary Hefling

being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the

Record Clerk

of The SPARKS TRIBUNE, a weekly newspaper,  
published in Sparks, Washoe County, Nevada; that  
he has charge of and knows the advertising ap-  
pearing in said newspaper, and the

Notice of County Ordinance

Bill No. 502, Ordinance No. 336

of which a copy is hereunto attached, was first  
published in said newspaper in its issue dated

October 27, 1976

and was published in each of the following issues  
thereafter:

the date of the last publication being in the issue  
of November 3, 1976

*Mary Hefling*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this, the

3rd day of November, 1976

*Loretta Dickerson*  
Douglas,  
Notary Public in and for the County of ~~Washoe~~

State of Nevada.

My Commission expires: 10-25-80

LORETTA DICKERSON  
Notary Public — State of Nevada  
Douglas County  
My Commission Expires Oct. 25, 1980

#### NOTICE OF COUNTY ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that Bill No. 502, Ordinance No. 336, an Ordinance amending Washoe County Ordinance No. 273 entitled "An Ordinance creating the office of Washoe County Coroner; defining the duties of the office; providing for the appointment of a coroner; providing for the administration of the office; and other matters properly relating thereto," which amending ordinance defines the meaning of the term "inspection"; requires the County Coroner to sign certificates of death investigated by the coroner pursuant to said ordinance; deletes the requirement that a previously attending physician must certify the cause of death of a death investigated by the coroner; requires the coroner to decently bury the remains of a person if no one takes charge and the coroner has conducted an inquiry inspection, investigation or inquest into the death; authorizes the County Coroner or medical examiner to inspect and examine the body of a deceased person, including a post-mortem examination, which shall include the power to exhume such body, in cases where preliminary investigations of the County Coroner, or of others assisting him have failed to satisfy the coroner or medical examiner as to the cause of the particular death, or where reasonable grounds exist to suspect that a crime has been committed," was adopted on October 15, 1976 by Commissioners Scott, Grow, Nelson, Rusk and Gaunt all voting aye.

Typewritten copies of the Ordinance are available for inspection by all interested persons at the office of the County Clerk.

Publish Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 1976  
Sparks Tribune No. 76352

ALEX COON, COUNTY CLERK

76-1988

SUMMARY: Amends Washoe County Ordinance No. 273 to define the meaning of the term "inspection"; to require the County Coroner to sign certificates of death investigated by the Coroner pursuant to said ordinance; to delete the requirement that a previously attending physician must certify the cause of death of a death investigated by the Coroner; to require the Coroner to decently bury the remains of a person if no one takes charge and the Coroner has conducted an inquiry, inspection, investigation or inquest into the death; to authorize the County Coroner or Medical Examiner to inspect and examine the body of a deceased person, including a post-mortem examination, which shall include the power to exhume such body, in cases where preliminary investigations of the County Coroner, or of others assisting him have failed to satisfy the Coroner or Medical Examiner as to the cause of the particular death, or where reasonable grounds exist to suspect that a crime has been committed.

BILL NO. 502  
 ORDINANCE NO. 336

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WASHOE COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 273 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OFFICE OF WASHOE COUNTY CORONER; DEFINING THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CORONER; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE; AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATING THERETO," WHICH AMENDING ORDINANCE DEFINES THE MEANING OF THE TERM "INSPECTION"; REQUIRES THE COUNTY CORONER TO SIGN CERTIFICATES OF DEATH INVESTIGATED BY THE CORONER PURSUANT TO SAID ORDINANCE; DELETES THE REQUIREMENT THAT A PREVIOUSLY ATTENDING PHYSICIAN MUST CERTIFY THE CAUSE OF DEATH OF A DEATH INVESTIGATED BY THE CORONER; REQUIRES THE CORONER TO DECENTLY BURY THE REMAINS OF A PERSON IF NO ONE TAKES CHARGE AND THE CORONER HAS CONDUCTED AN INQUIRY, INSPECTION, INVESTIGATION OR INQUEST INTO THE DEATH; AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CORONER OR MEDICAL EXAMINER TO INSPECT AND EXAMINE THE BODY OF A DECEASED PERSON, INCLUDING A POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE POWER TO EXHUME SUCH BODY, IN CASES WHERE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COUNTY CORONER, OR OF OTHERS ASSISTING HIM HAVE FAILED TO SATISFY THE CORONER OR MEDICAL EXAMINER AS TO THE CAUSE OF THE PARTICULAR DEATH, OR WHERE REASONABLE GROUNDS EXIST TO SUSPECT THAT A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED.

8861-76

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1.  
 Section 1 of Washoe County Ordinance No. 273 is hereby amended to read as follows by the addition of the definition of the term "inspection":

- SECTION 1. Definition of Terms.
- A. Autopsy Report: The term "autopsy report" shall mean any report of an autopsy or post-mortem examination, including all reports of laboratory examinations and other technical tests performed.
  - B. Board: The term "Board" shall mean the County Commissioners of the County of Washoe.

- C. Inquest: The term "inquest" shall mean an inquiry before a Coroner's jury, with testimony obtained under oath, duly recorded and handed down.
- D. Inspection: The term "inspection" shall mean an examination of a dead human body, the death of which must be investigated by the Coroner or the Coroner's deputies or assistants under the terms of this ordinance. It shall also refer to a Medical Examiner's medical examination and/or a partial or complete autopsy as necessary to determine the cause and manner of death.
- E. Investigation: The term "investigation" shall mean an inquiry by the Coroner's office and may include testimony obtained from witnesses under oath.
- F. Medical Examiner: The term "Medical Examiner" shall mean an individual licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Nevada; and who, when practicable, shall be a skilled pathologist with training or experience in forensic pathology and certified by the American Board of Pathology or qualified to be so certified. When such a pathologist is not available, the Coroner may designate and authorize a qualified doctor of medicine (not necessarily a pathologist) to serve in the place of such medical examiner for the purpose of making a particular examination or report, or to serve as a temporary substitute. The Medical Examiner or temporary appointee who is not a skilled pathologist may call any other medical examiner who is a skilled pathologist for consultation and assistance. The compensation of medical examiners shall be fixed by the Board.
- G. Post-Mortem Examination: The term "post-mortem examination" shall mean an examination of a dead body by a competent pathologist or licensed physician involving the opening and dissection of the body, including the removal of organs and tissues and fluids and other material for microscopic, toxicological, chemical, bacterial, or other examination as deemed necessary to study the cause of death. The term "autopsy" is a synonymous term.
- H. Records: The term "records" shall mean those reports duly summarized on a Coroner's office form for inclusion in a register or journal whether bound or not.
- I. Reports: The term "reports" shall mean those findings in written form which are filed in the Coroner's office, including examinations, witnesses' statements, correspondence, insurance forms and other evidence in support of the conclusions and findings recorded on the official records.
- J. Toxicologist: The term "toxicologist" means a specialized toxicologist, or specialist, in the science dealing with poisons and their effect, and with chemical, industrial, or legal problems involved in or connected therewith.

SECTION 2.

Section 7 of Washoe County Ordinance No. 273 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 7. Duties of the County Coroner.

It shall be the duty of the County Coroner to determine the cause of death of any person reported to him as having been killed by violence, having suddenly died under such circumstances as to afford reasonable grounds to suspect or infer that death has been caused or occasioned by the act of another by criminal means, having died under circumstances affording reasonable ground to suspect that the death has been occasioned by unnatural, unlawful, or suspicious means, or having committed suicide. When applicable State law makes it the duty of the Coroner to sign certificates of death, the Coroner shall determine the cause of all such deaths and shall sign and certify such cause on the death certificate prepared in connection with each said death, or shall sign and certify on the death certificate that the cause of death cannot be determined with reasonable medical certainty.

The County Coroner, or his assigned deputy or assistant, shall go to the scene of the dead person or persons and shall investigate all deaths as generally described in this section, including (without limitation) deaths occurring under the following circumstances:

- A. Unattended deaths;
- B. Deaths wherein the deceased has not been attended by a physician in the ten days before death;
- C. Deaths related to or following known or suspected self-induced or criminal abortion;
- D. Known or suspected homicide, suicide, or accidental poisoning;
- E. Deaths known or suspected to have resulted in whole or in part from or related to accident or injury, either old or recent;
- F. Deaths due to drowning, fire, hanging, gunshot, stabbing, cutting, exposure, starvation, alcoholism, drug addiction, strangulation or aspiration;
- G. Death in whole or in part occasioned by criminal means;
- H. Deaths in a place of legal incarceration or while under sentence;
- I. Deaths under such circumstances as to afford a reasonable ground to suspect that the death was caused by the criminal act of another, or any deaths reported by physicians or other persons having knowledge of death for inquiry by Coroner.
- J. Deaths occurring in the following situations:
  1. In the course of hospitalization of less than twenty-four (24) hours;

2. In an operating room or recovery room where the patient has expired;
3. When a person has died under general or local anesthesia.

In any case in which the Coroner or the Coroner's assigned deputy or assistant conducts an inquiry into the cause of death pursuant to this section, said Coroner or deputy or assistant shall personally sign the certificate of death, notwithstanding any other provision of law, and shall certify the cause of death thereon or shall certify that the cause of death cannot be determined with reasonable medical certainty.

SECTION 3.

Section 15 of Washoe County Ordinance No. 273 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 15. Burial of Deceased--When a Charge Against County.

After a Coroner's inquiry, inspection, investigation, or inquest, as provided in this ordinance, if no one takes charge of the remains of the deceased, the County Coroner shall cause the same to be decently buried. The expenses of the burial shall be paid from the money deposited with the County Treasurer or the estate of the deceased, as the case may be. If the deceased has no money or estate, or the money or estate of the deceased is insufficient to bear the entire cost of the burial, the County shall bear the costs of the burial in excess of any money or estate available.

SECTION 4.

Section 18 of Washoe County Ordinance No. 273 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 18. Powers and Duties of Coroner in Examination of Bodies.

If the preliminary investigation of the County Coroner, or of others assisting the Coroner has failed to satisfy the Coroner or Medical Examiner as to the cause of the particular death, or where reasonable grounds exist to suspect that a crime has been committed, the County Coroner, or Medical Examiner is hereby authorized to:

- A. Take possession of, and inspect or examine, the body of the deceased person, including a post-mortem examination, which shall include the power to exhume such body, in connection with any inspection or examination authorized herein, and no search warrant shall be necessary for access thereto.
- B. In his discretion, make or cause to be made, an analysis of the stomach, blood, or contents of organs, or tissues of the body, and secure professional opinions as to the result of such post-mortem examination. The information so secured shall be reduced to writing and filed by the Coroner in his records of the death of the deceased person. In his discretion, the County Coroner may, if the circumstances warrant it, hold an inquest as hereinabove provided. The County Coroner or Medical Examiner shall have the right to retain only such tissue of the body removed at

the time of the autopsy as may in his opinion be necessary or advisable to make proper investigation of the case, or for verification of the findings relating to the cause of death.

- C. The County Coroner, or any person assisting him, who may be duly licensed by the State of Nevada so to do, may perform an autopsy of any remains as to which the Coroner has jurisdiction and authority as herein provided, if the deceased, prior to his death, has authorized such an autopsy in his will or other written instrument, or upon receipt of a written authorization from a person representing himself to be any of the following: (1) the surviving spouse; (2) a surviving child or parent; (3) a surviving brother or sister; (4) any other kin or person who has, or has acquired, the right to control the disposition of the remains; (5) the District Attorney of Washoe County; (6) any other duly authorized public officer.

SECTION 5.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as prescribed by NRS 244.100.

Proposed on the 5th day of October, 1976.  
Proposed by Commissioner Scott, Grow, Nelson, Rusk, Gaunt  
Passed on the 15th day of October, 1976.

Vote:

Ayes:	Commissioners:	Scott, Grow, Nelson, Rusk, Gaunt
Nays:	Commissioners:	None
Absent:	Commissioners:	None

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
ALEX COON CLERK  
By *[Signature]* CHIEF DEPUTY  
County Clerk

This Ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the 3rd day of November, 1976.