

CODE

**CITY OF REDMOND
ORDINANCE NO. _____**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDMOND,
WASHINGTON, AFFIRMING AN INTERIM OFFICIAL
CONTROL TO AMEND ARTICLE I, ZONE-BASED
REGULATIONS, AND ARTICLE VII, DEFINITIONS, OF
THE REDMOND ZONING CODE TO ESTABLISH INTERIM
REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL DRONE LAND USES,
AFFIRMING A WORKPLAN, UPDATING FINDINGS OF
FACT, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City has noted increased interest in the use of
drones in commercial business operations; and

WHEREAS, national retailers have begun delivering packages by
drones in select markets across the country; and

WHEREAS, the City approved permits for a restaurant in
Downtown Redmond that include the possibility of drone pickup and
delivery of food orders; and

WHEREAS, the City does not have permanent regulations
concerning commercial drone land uses; and

WHEREAS, absent such regulations, the City cannot effectively
manage the impacts to the community of commercial drone operations
in Redmond; and

WHEREAS, regulating when and where takeoffs and landings
occur, the scale of takeoff and landing facilities, and applying
other customary land use controls would help manage impacts to the

community and provide a predictable regulatory environment for operators; and

WHEREAS, land use regulations will not, and are not intended to, prevent commercial drone operations from occurring in Redmond because drones can enter Redmond from nearby communities;

WHEREAS, land use regulations must be paired with coordination with Redmond's neighbors and the Federal Aviation Administration to most effectively address community impacts associated with commercial drone operations within the scope of City authority; and

WHEREAS, drone personal or law enforcement use are not the subject of this ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Redmond Comprehensive Plan contains policy support for a consistent and predictable regulatory environment (EV-6), attracting and retaining businesses that meet community needs (EV-2), and limiting adverse impacts of land uses (LU-9, NE-92); and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.390 and RCW 35A.63.220 authorize cities to impose interim official controls when action must be taken sooner than compliance with the City's customary public processes allow; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, on April 21, 2026, adopted an interim official control, Ordinance 3257, amending Article I, zone-based regulations, and Article VII, Definitions, of the

Redmond Zoning Code to establish interim regulations for commercial drone land uses, and

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing on June 2, 2026, during which it received public testimony from community members concerning safety, privacy, noise, and regulatory approach and received written testimony concerning the same; and

WHEREAS, the City Council found that the Interim Official Control adopted in Ordinance 3257 allowed limited drone land uses that did not address such community concerns; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, in accordance with these findings, amended Ordinance 3257 to prohibit commercial drone land uses in the Manufacturing Park and Industry zones; and

WHEREAS, the amendments to Ordinance 3257 require an additional public hearing, held on July 21, 2026; and

WHEREAS, these interim official controls as amended on June 2, 2026, are designed to prevent commercial drone land uses while permanent regulations are being developed; and

WHEREAS, without the interim official controls adopted by this ordinance, commercial drone land uses may begin operating in Redmond absent regulations that address the impacts of such uses and provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of community members; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient time to process the necessary permanent code amendments before additional permit applications

are filed for such uses and become vested to existing regulations;
and

WHEREAS, while the interim official controls are in place, the City will draft permanent regulations in accordance with the adopted work plan to be reviewed with stakeholders and considered by the Planning Commission and City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to affirm the amendments and associated work plan set forth in this Ordinance 3257 as amended on June 2, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Affirmation of Prior Action. The City Council affirms the interim official control and associated work plan as amended on June 2, 2026.

Section 2. Findings of Fact. The recitals set forth above constitute the Redmond City Council's findings of fact justifying the adoption of the interim amendments set forth in this ordinance.

Section 3. Transmittal to Department of Commerce.
Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, a copy of this ordinance shall be transmitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 5. Effective date. This ordinance shall become effective five days after its publication, or publication of a summary thereof, in the city's official newspaper, or as otherwise provided by law.

ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council this 21 day of July, 2026.

CITY OF REDMOND

ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

REBECCA MUELLER, CITY ATTORNEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR:
PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE DATE:
ORDINANCE NO.