



Maricopa County

Planning & Development Department

Department Directive

Department Directive:
DD-2017-04

Supersedes:
DD-2012-02

Effective: 8/14/17

Initiator: Darren Gerard – *DG*

Director: Carol Johnson – *CJ*

PURPOSE: Interpretation of the Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance regarding **Mounted Cowboy Shooting.**

REFERENCE: Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance, Articles 501.2 (Rural Zoning District Use Regulations), 805.2 (C-3 General Commercial Zoning Districts Use Regulations) and 1301.1 (Special Uses).

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

The Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance (MCZO) is a permissive document. Any use not specifically listed as a permitted principal use or accessory use or a Special Use (SUP) is not permitted in a zoning district.

The MCZO does permit accessory buildings and uses that are customarily incidental to the established principal use. This determination is made by the Zoning Administrator (Director of the Department) or her designee.

It has been determined that Mounted Cowboy Shooting is not an accessory use customarily incidental to any permitted principal use in any zoning district, nor is Mounted Cowboy Shooting an equestrian activity permitted as an accessory use to a single-family residence in the Rural zoning districts per MCZO, Art. 501.2.15.

The discharge of a firearm is not harmonious to a residential neighborhood environment.

MCZO, Article 1301.1.13 states that “recreational open-air facilities” may be permitted as a Special Use (SUP) in any zoning district. This SUP category is considered to include Mounted Cowboy Shooting. MCZO, Article 805.2.20 states that “permanent facilities for rodeos” are permitted as a use in C-3, General Commercial Zoning District. SUP/Zone Change approval by the Board of Supervisors is a legislative process with public input at a public hearing.