

Summary of spirit Meadow dirt bike noise complaint

Chief Kevin Schofield

- **Tuesday May 27th, 2025;** had a 45 minute to 1 hour phone call with Mr. Bill Hayes who lives at the corner of Brand Road and Spirit Meadow Lane, his concerns were that of noise generated by dirt bikes and ATV's on a dirt bike track on neighbor's property at the end of Spirit Meadow Lane. Mr. Hayes represented that oftentimes for multiple hours and with multiple vehicles there would be people riding ATV's and dirt bikes which he reported disturbing his peace and unsightly. Mr. Hayes told me someone recommended he go to the City Council the same evening to discuss this and ask my opinion I advise that's a part of the city council's duty is to listen to citizens, and they most certainly have the right to do that. I was later told that Mister Hayes did in fact attend the council meeting that evening. At the conclusion of this phone call, I did agree to meet with Mr. Hayes in person to review the video that he had on his phone of the noise and the dirt bike riding.

At about 1700 hours I drove down spirit Meadow Lane approximately 100 feet, turned off my car and listen to the noise. There was no noise or activity around the house at the end of the road with the dirt bike track, however at the house directly to my left there was what appeared to be a very young child. I would guess five to seven years old driving a very small four-wheeler around that home the noise in my opinion was insignificant

- **Wednesday May 28th, 2025, 3:20 PM;** I met with Mr. Hayes, another neighbor that lives at the end of Spirit Meadow and a third neighbor that lives at the end of the next Rd. beyond Spirit Meadow. During the meeting other matters were brought up by the neighbors that did not pertain to the bike riding, these included video of what appeared to be the neighbor who owns the track burning brush on his property months prior as well as concerned over this gentleman walking onto the frozen pond during the winter with a younger child, Mr. Hayes express he showed me this to show me the way in which the person lives. with no safety for children or the neighbors. He represented the fire to be full of black smoke and toxic, however he did not call the fire department or report the matter months earlier

Mr. Hayes showed me a video of what appeared to be a smaller four-Wheeler naughty 2 wheel dirt bike driving around this dirt bike track, I have no idea of how far Mr. Hayes was from the dirt bike track when this happened or what the decibels

would have been however it was easy to hear the noise of the bike on the video. During this meeting Mr. Hayes and the other neighbors report this behavior going on for hours at a time almost all day on weekend days and oftentimes other people on dirt bikes drive in there or multiple trucks trailer and dirt bikes into the track.

The neighbors felt this was in violation of the town's disorderly property ordinance as well as a section of the traffic ordinance that says something to the effect unregistered off road dirt bikes and ATV's cannot drive within 200 feet of another dwelling without written permission from the owner.

I concluded the meeting by telling the neighbors I've been investigated the past several months of complaints in that neighborhood and there were two made in the middle of the month of May 2025 by the two occupants of the other dwelling at the end of spirit Meadow one of which was attending this meeting. I was clear to them that for me to even consider disorderly property they would need to file a complaint an officer would have to respond to independently verify noise and report back to me on that independent observation. I was also clear to them that legally permitted behavior during daylight hours may be problematic in terms of enforcing A disorderly property ordinance. I was not aware of this subsection of the traffic ordinance and told them I would research it which I subsequently have and verified there is that language which appears to be put in in 1991

- **Monday June 2nd, 2025.** Between 10:30 and 1100 hours I drove down spirit Meadow Lane to the home where the dirt bike track is to discuss the matter with the owners. I received no answer at the door there was no cars in the yard, so I left a business card with the message requesting a phone call.

At about 3:30 PM I received a phone call from a woman named Jennifer Jimineau who told me she that we reside there and received my card. I explained to her that some neighbors had contacted my office as well as the town council to express concerns of the noise caused by dirt bikes and four Wheelers on the track. I asked her how they used to track how often the number of vehicles on the track as well as those who may be trailer and vehicles down the road to use the track. I was told that the predominant use of the track was by her nine-year-old son on a 140-dirt bike or four-Wheeler. Most of his use was limited to one to two hours in the late afternoon or evening and not after 7:00 PM. Jennifer also told me occasionally two other neighborhood kids on electric dirt bikes that do not make noise and welcome to use the track, the neighbors expressing concerns also mention these electric bikes and

the lack of noise. Jennifer told me the only time she's aware anyone trailers bikes there is occasionally a friend of her son parent will do so for the nine-year-old son. When we discussed how often and how many hours the track would be used on weekends Jennifer told me that her family participates in racing and other events and are frequently away on the weekends doing so, she said most weekend use would be limited to an hour or two on a late Sunday afternoon.

1645 hours to 1650 hours. I parked at the corner of Spirit Meadow and Brand Rd. turn off my car lower the volume on my police radio to listen for any noise. The neighborhood was completely silent during that time.

I concluded my conversation with Jennifer by explaining to her that neighbors were requesting I am forced the town's disorderly property ordinance on these activities. I was clear I was uncertain if this ordinance would apply to dirt bike riding on our property however that are part of the ordinance would be for me to meet with the property owners to discuss certain remediation plans which may include some agreement on the number of hours in what time they should stop views on bikes on the track. I was also clear that neighbors would have to complain officers would have to respond and verify that in their opinion excessive noise was in fact an issue.

At this point I will continue to spot check and document the findings. However, as I told the neighbors they would in fact have to file a complaint and they could do so anonymously, Officers that must respond to verify the disorderly event before we could even consider enacting the disorderly property ordinance.

- **Thursday June 5th:** I sent a department wide email requesting independent spot checks on the area for noise. Sti at Brand and Spirit meadow.
- **June 5th:** June 5th Sgt. Fournier 1800 hrs. faint noise 18:18 hrs. silent, 1949 hrs. silent
 - **June 6th:** Off Denman reported no noise at 11:25 hrs.
 - **June 10th:** Chief Schofield; Quite at start. Then I heard the faint sound of DB. Could hear an adult say two more minutes then you are done. Could hear children's voices and birds chirping more than the engine noise. 5 PM adult voice said done for day, motor shut off.

- **Wednesday June 18:** Researched Noise complaints for Sprit Meadow made by citizens since my discussion with Ms. Jimineau on June 2, 2025. I found none.

At this point the plan for the Police Department to move forward will be to discontinue self-initiated spot checks on this matter and to respond to citizens' noise complaints per our typical practice and assess each call on its own merit.