



## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

January 28, 2025

Council Chambers  
680 Park Ave

**Members Present:** Nathan Kennedy - Chair, Ron Johnson, Scott Larson, Jenna Price

**Staff Present:** Naysha Foster, Current Planner, David Peterson, Current Planner, Jacob Beck,  
Assistant City Attorney

**Call to Order:** Nathan Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Minutes:** Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from December 17, 2024, Larson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearing**

**VAR24-003:** Variance to allow an indoor gun range closer than the minimum standard of 600 feet to the closest dwelling unit located at the Idaho Falls Police Department, 775 Northgate Mile, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Kennedy opened the public hearing.

**Applicant:** Officer John Marley, from the Idaho Falls Police Department, informed the Board that the Idaho Falls Police Department is looking for a variance to allow an indoor shooting range at the Police Complex. The facility would provide ongoing training and qualifications to maintain weapons proficiency. Police Officers qualify on rifle and pistol proficiency twice per year. The Police also has quarterly firearms trainings to make sure everyone is proficient with firearms. Officer Marley told the Board that they are looking to put a pre-manufactured, two rifle rated lanes at twenty-five yards. This would allow them to do many qualifications on site. He said that it's a monorail design, which means moving targets in two lanes moving both ways with a bullet trap, lighting, and HVAC. The shooting range would be on a secured location in a secured facility. Officer Marley showed the Board a map of the Police Complex and indicated where the shooting range would go. Officer Marley said that a container range is a 360 degree, all axial containment with an HVAC system that would meet all relevant OSHA, NIOSH, and EPA requirements. The container has an air filtration system, return/exhaust air system, CO level warning system with a granulated rubber style bullet trap. The container is fully insulated and has an acoustic treatment that must be able to demonstrate a reverberation time of less than 1.3 seconds and ricochet containment capability. Officer Marley said that what they would be looking at for the setup and activation would be the foundation and site work, utilities, lead removal as needed, replacement of granulated rubber style trap as needed, and the maintain the warranty and service plan. The manufacturer would deliver, assemble the HVAC system, monorail setup, and training.

Larson asked about acoustics and what the police has noticed in terms of proximity of noise to the container? Officer Marley said that you can't hear the shooting until you are right next to the building. He said the location of this shooting range would be right next to the rail road tracks and this would provide an additional buffer.

Price said she's not so concerned about how loud it is, more that the sounds that would be coming out of the container would be terrifying. Price said that the City Ordinance requires a noise level of no more than 65 decibels on the property line. Can this be tested? Officer Marley said that this can be tested, and the Police Department has the tools to test this.

Johnson wasn't expecting an existing structure to be able to be modified like this and wanted to know what muffles the sound? Officer Marley said they have insulation, a three-inch AR500 armor, and ballistic rubber. He said this helps with the ricochet as well as the sound.

Larson asked how often officers would utilize the container for routine practice. Officer Marley told the Board that the main benefit would be pistols. He said that as police officers their primary weapon is the handgun that they must train with on a reoccurring basis. This range would allow them to do this in the in-house academy and give them one whole pistol training session there. He estimates 300 rounds per officer per year and they have 102 officers.

Price asked if they intend for any officers to practice daily. Officer Marley said he hopes that they would utilize the facility daily under the supervision of a firearms instructor.

Foster presented the staff report, a part of the record.

Price asked staff if Guns and Gear, that is in the city, is abiding by the 65 decibels from property line. Foster said that to her knowledge they are abiding by this ordinance. Foster explained that 65 decibels would be like hearing a dish washer at the property line.

Chief Johnson from the Idaho Falls Police Department told the Board that the site was intended to have a brick-and-mortar shooting range but the price of that was too high. They were able to find these Conex boxes and were able to save a couple million dollars. He said that he operated a system like this at a previous agency. He said they had a five-lane range, and they were in a residential neighborhood approximately 25 feet from the nearest house. Because of this he was out listening to it all the time and would equvalate the noise to microwave popcorn when you are outside of the shooting range. Chief Johnson also pointed out that they are a fully operational Police Department. They try to be good neighbors, but they are training on other things also. They have explosive training and sirens that go off as part of trainings that are much louder than the shooting range. Chief Johnson also wanted to reiterate that he thinks they will be using the shooting range daily.

**Support/Opposition:** No one from the public appeared.

**Kennedy closed the public hearing.**

Johnson feels the gun range is needed and will save the city money. Larson feels it's straightforward. Kennedy and Price agree.

**Johnson moved to approve the request as submitted. Larson seconded the motion. Larson, yes; Kennedy, yes; Johnson, yes; Price, yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Larson moved to approve the Reasoned Statement of Relevant Criteria and Standards as presented. Johnson seconded the motion. Larson, yes; Kennedy, yes; Johnson, yes; Price, yes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Business**

**Election of officers:** Johnson made a motion to retain Kennedy as Chair. Larson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Kennedy made a motion to retain Johnson as Vice-Chair. Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**Miscellaneous**

**BOA Training:** Foster presented training to the Board talking about the bylaws/ordinance for the Board of Adjustment. Foster and the Board had a discussion regarding quorum, terms of office, LLUPA, importance of speaking into the microphone, and general responsibilities of the Board of Adjustment.

**Adjourned at 6:17 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Ann Peterson, Recording Secretary**