ORDINANCE NO. 2026-023

AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A MORATORIUM FOR SIX MONTHS ON THE SUBMISSION, ACCEPTANCE, PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMERCIAL DRONE DELIVERY HUBS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS EMERGENCY ADOPTION ON FIRST AND FINAL READING

WHEREAS, commercial drone delivery hubs are not currently defined in the Castle Rock Municipal Code, creating ambiguity about where they are permitted and what standards apply;

WHEREAS, local governments across the nation are working to address the establishment of commercial drone delivery hubs, which often raise concerns over locating such hubs near residential and other sensitive areas, light, noise, size, site design considerations, hours of operation, and screening requirements;

WHEREAS, the Town of Castle Rock (the "Town") requires additional time to prepare and propose for adoption regulations within its authority for the establishment of commercial drone delivery hubs within the Town;

WHEREAS, the moratorium proposed by this Ordinance is intended to prevent the establishment and operation of commercial drone delivery hubs in the Town on a temporary basis in order to allow the Town to draft and adopt ordinances, and to allow public comment prior to adoption of any such ordinances, and in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Town;

WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to institute a six (6) month moratorium on the submission, acceptance, processing and approval of applications for the establishment of a commercial drone delivery hub after the date of adoption of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council determines it is necessary to adopt this Ordinance on an emergency basis on first and final reading and for this Ordinance to take effect upon its adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO:

Section 1. **Findings and Intent.** The above and foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Council of the Town of Castle Rock.

Section 2. **Moratorium**. Effective upon adoption of this Ordinance, a temporary moratorium on the submission, acceptance, processing and approval of any application for a commercial drone delivery hub is hereby imposed.

Section 3. **Duration**. This moratorium shall remain in effect for six (6) months from the date of adoption of this Ordinance unless terminated at an earlier date or extended by further ordinance.

Section 4. **Definition**. For purposes of this moratorium, "commercial drone delivery hub" is defined as "an area used for the storage, charging, take-off and landing of private unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for the purpose of picking up and discharging cargo."

Section 5. **Severability**. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall for any reason be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction invalid, such judgment shall not affect the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 6. **Emergency Clause**. In accordance with Section 2.02.100.E of the Castle Rock Municipal Code and for the reasons stated in the recitals to this Ordinance, it is declared that an emergency exists and it is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety for this Ordinance to take effect upon its adoption on first and final reading.

Section 7. **Safety Clause**. The Town Council finds and declares that this Ordinance is promulgated and adopted for the public health, safety and welfare and bears a rational relation to the legislative object sought to be obtained.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON FIRST AND FINAL READING this 21st day of July, 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Castle Rock, Colorado, by a vote of ___ for and ___against, constituting the extraordinary majority required by Section 2.02.100.E of the Castle Rock Municipal Code, after publication in compliance with Section 2.02.100.C of the Castle Rock Municipal Code.

ATTEST:

_____
Lisa Anderson, Town Clerk

TOWN OF CASTLE ROCK

_____
Jason Gray, Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____
Michael J. Hyman, Town Attorney

Approved as to content:

_____
Tara Vargish, Director of Development Services