

Concerns Submitted Via Email to the Planning Division

References to locations and names have been redacted from these emails.

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

"At this time we are requesting that the Wake County Commissioners review Wake County's inadequate firearm ordinance. Tonight a load was discharged from a gun in such a way that the load flew across my property in Knightdale Station. Our family was in the backyard grilling, and I was in the yard with the dogs when a bullet flew just left and within feet of my head. It shredded through our neighbors branches before traveling through our yard. We believe the load was fired from an AR style rifle on county property and came into our subdivision in the Town of Knightdale. The incident occurred just before 8pm with at least 5 separate rounds of multiple bullets/loads in each round. We immediately called 911. Officer XXX (Knightdale Town Police) and Officer XXX (Wake County Sheriff) both investigated. Officer XXX speaks Spanish and they were able to communicate with all residents on XXXX Road just across a field from our subdivision. At this time they are unable to identify the source of the load. This is not the first time this has happened. In the spring of 2021 a load was discharged from the same field/woods and flew up our street, XXXXXXX Drive, and again whizzed past us while doing yard work in front of our house. Our concern is not with the police/sheriff's efforts. Our concern is that the ordinance does not properly protect our community from irresponsible gun owners. Wake County Firearms Ordinance 2005: <https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wakegov.com.if-us-west-2/prod/documents/2021-02/Firearms%20Ordinance%202005.pdf> My partner and son both have Lifetime Fishing and Hunting licenses. My son shoots firearms with his father in XXXXX area. We respect the right to shoot firearms in the county, but we have two very serious concerns. 1. At this time the consequence for a load to leave your property is only a Class 3 Misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$50. This fine needs to be increased significantly. There is no incentive to invest in building an appropriate shooting range, backstop, or berm with such a small consequence. Further if a sheriff investigates a shooting target/range there is no clear criteria or standard that defines appropriate structure to prevent a load (bullet) from leaving the lawful property of the discharge. 2. I am concerned that the current ordinance of 100 yards is not enough distance to protect the families in our community. In Florida it is illegal to shoot a firearm within 300 yards of an occupied building. We appreciate the police force, specifically Officer XXXX diligence both this evening and in 2021. Again our concern is that the current ordinance is inadequate for community safety."

Sunday, October 11, 2020 5:25 PM

"I constantly hear gunfire multiple times daily. I haven't pinpointed as to the exact house that this has been coming from, but the noise has really become a nuisance, as it sounds like it is VERY close to me. I live in Wake County, and in a subdivision with more than 30 homes. Can something be done about this? I have lived here for 14 years and this annoyance has recently begun within this past year and I'm sick of it already. I fail to understand the reasoning behind this person wanting to shoot a gun in their yard, just a few houses from me, as there are plenty of gun ranges that he/she can go to. Please inform me what I can do to remedy this issue. I reside in XXXXX subdivision, which is located off of XXXXXX Rd."

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:58 PM

"We live near XXXXX in XXXXX, which along with a few acres of wooded area, is owned by XXXXXX. Her family and/or friends are shooting guns on their property scaring people in our neighborhood, scaring animals, and making a ton of noise. Many people in our community have called the Sheriff's Department, but they say they can't do anything."

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This has been occurring for about two years! It's concerning that they can shoot guns so close to residential property. The law allows this within a certain distance from other homes, but I KNOW that distance has NOT been properly measured. Moreover, the decibel law should be changed so that gunshots are not EVER permitted anywhere NEAR humans!

How would you like it in your neighborhood?

In addition, it is very dangerous given how far bullets can travel in this modern time! They will likely shoot someone in the future if you do not act and that would yield a big lawsuit! The barbaric law allowing this bad behavior is incongruent with modern ethics and neighborhood proximity, so I hope you change this law quickly!

We are considering going to the press, but I don't really want to take this action until you are given a chance to resolve this issue in a more amicable and QUICK fashion. I would rather this town and county not be considered a low-class area.

The law needs to catch up to the development of XXXX. We need your help to do this. Can you please help to change the law to not allow shooting on residential properties that are close to public parks/trail systems, commercial businesses, and residential properties?

Please advise us of your stance on this issue and what you will be doing to solve the major problem."

Saturday, December 22, 2018 01:39:40 PM

"I am reaching out to you in regard to an issue that XXXXXX had been working on.

I live on XXXXX between XXXXX and XXXXXX. And between two large subdivisions. We have a neighbor who shoots firearms on a regular basis. This shooting is troublesome and worrisome to myself and other neighbors. In fact a petition (to revise the ordinance) was signed which was shared with XXXXXX and the Sheriff's department.

In our opinion the shooting ordinance needs to be revisited and the noise ordinance may as well - hopefully that would include shooting restrictions in certain areas of Wake County.

Currently anyone can shoot as much as they desire between 7AM and 11PM. The other outdated ordinance is that they only have to be 300 feet from the nearest neighbor to shoot. We feel like this needs to be changed to a distance that would minimize noise and stress levels. Wake county has changed over the years - from a more rural county to a much populated urban county and will continue to grow and recreational shooting should be limited to certified and licensed shooting ranges and or other licensed facility.

I respectfully ask to see if there is anything that can be changed with the shooting laws that would prohibit the noise and stress we encounter when the shooting occurs. I know from first hand experience that even at 300 feet that the noise from hand guns and rifles make it impossible to sit outside or perform work outside. If rifles are used it makes it unpleasant and stressful to sit inside while the shooting is taking place.

I'd appreciate a call or a response to see if there is any way we can revise the ordinances that would prohibit shooting in this populated area and possibly other areas of Wake County."

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February 20, 2018 at 12:38:41 PM

"I live in XXXXXXX, near the corner of XXXXXXX. A few years ago a gun enthusiast moved into a home near XXXXX and XXXXXXX. This neighbor will often shoot round after round, sometimes for hours. I called the Sheriff's Department when it started and they said he was target shooting. I assume law enforcement has established that he is shooting on his own property and doesn't endanger the neighbors with stray bullets but don't actually know this as a fact. What is a fact is that it is annoying. I can hear his gunfire from inside my home, over the TV. It certainly disrupts time spent outside.

I have always supported the right of individuals to own firearms and shoot on their own property where legal, if the size of their property can accommodate the activity, but this man is abusing that right. Is there anything that can be done to reduce the amount of time that a resident of Wake County is allowed create noise pollution, interrupting the lives of neighbors? Is there already a law we can use to encourage this man to use a gun range, instead?

Thank you for considering this problem. Please let me know if there is anything I can do."

February 12, 2018 at 8:19:08 AM

"I am writing again to see if the board will review the antiquated shooting ordinance for Wake County. Yesterday I could not sit outside with my family due to the shooting in my neighborhood. I guess we could have but we would have need ear protection.

The 300 (100 yard) rule is arbitrary. It does not take into account the loudness of particular firearms. For instance-shooting 22 caliber firearm is far different than shooting large caliber rifles. This noise is a nuisance and unsettling in the fact that it is a common and ongoing occurrence and happens when our family would like to enjoy the outside without feeling we are living next to a firing range. I am sure if you check the record you will find many shooting complaints from residents off of XXXXX Rd. zip XXXXX.

For the record, I am a staunch 2A supporter and this is not a right to bear arms issue. This is about nuisance noise that has become common place in my neighborhood. It is unacceptable and needs to be addressed.

Also, this is not just one individual shooting. Yesterday there were two shooters both shooting high powered rifles. In most cases, like Saturday evenings and most Sunday afternoons, multiple people meet and begin shooting.

I respectfully request that the board take up this issue and review the existing ordinance taking into account-

1. The distance to nearby dwellings
2. The hours of restriction for shooting
3. The caliber of the firearm
4. Nuisance noise associated with shooting
5. This is not gun range related

Thank you in advance for considering these issues."

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Sunday, November 27, 2011

"Saturday we had people target shooting on the XXXXX Rd end of the power lines, the XXXXX end of the power lines and from my house it sounded like shooting in the vicinity of XXXXXXX land. These were mostly high powered rifles with 20 and 30 round clips. When they started shooting they shot as fast as possible until the clips were empty. We heard easily over 1000 shots for around 4 hours Saturday afternoon. As we know a lot of people, we were getting calls and texts about all the shooting from our neighbors about who was shooting and what are the laws and ordinances in Wake County. As all the shooting was at the other ends of the power lines a good guess would be the bullets were headed my way.

As a long time hunter the law in Wake County on Deer hunting with a high powered rifle is that the gun cannot be loaded or discharged unless the hunter is at least 8 ft. off the ground. While shooting at a deer a hunter is lucky to get off 2 shots but Wake County allows untrained target shooters to stand on the ground and shoot hundreds of shots. Any person with training and experience with guns will tell you that when you pull the trigger the barrel rises. When shooting as fast as possible the only sure placement of your bullet is the first. That being said out of a 30 round clip the first one maybe safe but all thereafter is probably unaccounted for.

History in America and Canada has it that people do nothing about a dangerous situation until a child is killed. Wake County has a Shooting Range and should limit all target shooting to supervised officially approved Target Ranges. If you will pull up my address on Mapquest , hit Satellite and back out I think you will agree that the population here and in most of Wake County makes it terribly unsafe to fire a weapon that has a killing range of over one mile. I personally have taken deer at over 500 yards with my hunting rifle. Military type rifles like the ones that are being shot out here are usually a smaller caliber and will shoot flatter than my hunting rifle allowing them to shoot further with less drop.

I am known as a Hunter and see Whitetail Deer in my yard daily year round. This is not a safe place to be shooting the many guns I own.

Please be a leader in the fight to make Wake County a safe place for all citizens BEFORE THAT CHILD IS KILLED and post these Laws or Ordinances where they can be easily found on Wakegov.com .I did find a very lame excuse for these rules on line. My neighbors called me because they could not find them."