

# Wake County Firearms Ordinance

Wake County Board of Commissioners

November 9, 2022

Tim Maloney, Director, Planning Development and Inspections



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# Background

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Public Safety Committee         | August 22, 2022    |
| • Public Hearing                  | September 6, 2022  |
| • Listening Session               | September 13, 2022 |
| • Special Work Session            | September 19, 2022 |
| • Work Session                    | October 10, 2022   |
| • Regular Meeting (first reading) | October 17, 2022   |

# Wake County Firearms Ordinance

- No discharge on/from public street or highway
- No discharge within 100 yards of a dwelling, public building, or livestock.
- Distance can be reduced with permission from adjacent property owners.
- The projectile may not leave the property from which it is lawfully discharged on.
- Penalty for violation is a class 3 misdemeanor and \$50 fine.
- Local jurisdictions cannot regulate the discharge of firearms when used for hunting animals or birds (§153A-129).

# Proposed Amendments

1. Increase the minimum distance from a dwelling, public building or livestock in which a person may discharge a firearm from 100 yards to 300 yards.
2. Written permission from adjacent property owners allows reduction of the distance.
3. Require a backstop that meets industry standards and at least meets the height and width standards specified in the ordinance (height must extend 4' above the target and 2' thick).
4. Only fixed, stationary targets at which the firearm is specifically aimed, directed and fired upon may be used.
5. Prohibit the discharge of a firearm between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
6. Increase the maximum fine for violation from \$50 to the statutory limit of \$500.

# Public Awareness

1. Create a webpage on the County's website that outlines the rules and standards of the Firearms Ordinance so that it's easy to understand.
2. Provide information on the website on how to make a complaint.
3. Provide a downloadable template of the "Permission Form" when seeking permission from neighbors to reduce the 300-yard distance requirement.
4. Staff to assist residents in determining the extent of 300 yards from their property.

# Effective Date

The amendments adopted herein will be effective on December 9, 2022.

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