

# Agenda Item Summary

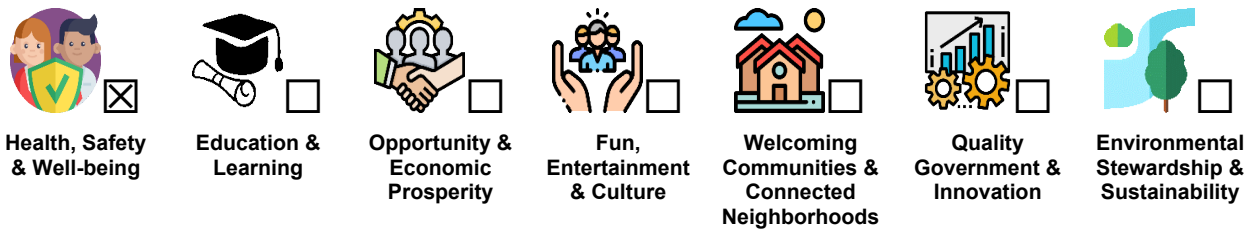
City Council Regular Meeting

November 26, 2024



**SECTION:** Other City Council Actions  
**ITEM:** Ordinance Amending and Reordaining City Code Chapter 43, Weapons, Section 43-3, Prohibition on Possession of Firearms  
**DEPARTMENT:** Security Services

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT:



## ACTION:

A Request to Adopt an Ordinance to Amend and Reordain City Code Chapter 43, Weapons, by Amending Section 43-3, Prohibition on Possession of Firearms.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

City Council is requested to amend and reordain City Code Chapter 43, Weapons, by amending Section 43-3, prohibiting the possession, carrying, or transportation of any firearm, ammunition for a firearm, or any components or combination thereof in: (1) Any building, or part thereof, owned or used by the City of Newport News, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News, for governmental purposes.

In buildings not owned by the City of Newport News, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News, this section shall apply only to the part of the building that is being used for a governmental purpose and when such building, or part thereof, is being used for a governmental purpose, (2) Any recreation or community center facility operated by the City of Newport News or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News.

In addition to exceptions mandated by state law, this prohibition would not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers, authorized military personnel in the performance of their lawful duties, security guards employed by the City or any authority or local government entity created or controlled by the City in the performance of their lawful duties.

**CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Manager recommends approval.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[City Code Chapter 43 Weapons-AMEND Sec. 43-3 Prohibition on possession of firearms- 11-26-2024- Ordinance](#)

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN CHAPTER 43, WEAPONS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA, SECTION 43-3, PROHIBITION ON POSSESSION OF FIREARMS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Newport News, Virginia:

That Chapter 43, Weapons, of the Code of the City of Newport News, Virginia, Section 43-3, Prohibition on possession of firearms, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained as follows:

CHAPTER 43

WEAPONS

Sec. 43-3. Prohibition on possession of firearms.

(a) No person shall ~~openly~~ possess, carry or transport any firearm, ammunition for a firearm, or any components or combination thereof in any of the following locations:

- (1) Any building, or ~~part~~ ~~portion~~ thereof, owned or used by the City of Newport News, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News, for governmental purposes. In buildings not owned by the City of Newport News, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News, this section shall apply only to the part of the building that is being used for a governmental purpose and when such building, or part thereof, is being used for a governmental purpose.
- (2) ~~Any building, or portion thereof, that is being used for governmental purposes by the City of Newport News or any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News;~~
- (3) ~~Any recreation or community center facility, or public park, owned or operated by the City of Newport News or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News;~~
- (4) ~~Any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right of way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used for a city sponsored event.~~

(b) Notice of ~~the prohibitions created by this section~~ shall be posted ~~conspicuously at all entrances to the locations identified in subsection (a)~~ as required by § 15.2-915 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

(c) Pursuant to this section, the City may implement security measures that are designed to prevent the unauthorized access of such buildings or recreation or community center facilities by a person with any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, such as the use of metal detectors or other weapons detection systems and increased use of security personnel. Security personnel, law enforcement, and any other authorized government employee or agent may deny entry to any of the locations covered by this section to any person with any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, and may direct such person to leave said location. Failure to leave after being so directed may result in trespassing charges under applicable law.

(ed) Exceptions. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

- (1) ~~Duly authorized~~Sworn law enforcement officers;
- (2) ~~Duly authorized~~Active-duty military personnel acting within the scope of their official duties~~in the performance of their lawful duties~~;
- (3) City of Newport News park rangers acting within the scope of their official duties;
- (4) Duly authorized employees of the City of Newport News fire department assigned to the fire marshal's office or bomb team, acting in the performance of their lawful~~within the scope of their official~~ duties;
- (5) Authorized participants in city sponsored educational programs, such as battle re-enactments or living history demonstrations;
- (6) Security guards employed or ~~contracted~~retained by the City of Newport News or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the City of Newport News, in the performance of their lawful duties;
- (7) The activities of (i) a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program operated at a public or private institution of higher education in accordance with the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 2101 et seq. or (ii) any intercollegiate athletics program operated by a public or private institution of higher education and governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association or any club sports team recognized by a public or private institution of higher education where the sport engaged in by such program or team involves the use of a firearm. Such activities shall follow strict guidelines developed by such institutions for these activities and shall be conducted under the supervision of staff officials of such institutions;
- (8) Any individually authorized hunting or game reduction program expressly permitted by an official of a public or private institution of higher education;
- (9) An otherwise lawfully possessed firearm, ammunition, components or combination thereof, ~~and/or ammunition for a firearm~~ stored out of sight in a locked private motor vehicle lawfully parked on City property or on a public street;-
- (10) ~~The lawful possession of a concealed handgun pursuant to a valid concealed handgun permit.~~Individuals who are authorized to carry a concealed firearm pursuant to the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 926B and 926C, as amended.

(11) Other City of Newport News employees and officials authorized by the city manager to carry a firearm, acting within the scope of that authorization.

(de) Violations of this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).