

Arlington County VA

Article II Firearms

§ 13-11. Authority.

This chapter is authorized pursuant to the authority under Section 15.2-915(E) of the Code of Virginia.

§ 13-12. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to ensure the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Arlington County and to protect them from the use of firearms in County buildings and property, as well as, in places of permitted public events or adjacent to such events.

§ 13-13. Definitions.

“Firearm” means any handgun, shotgun, or rifle that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material.

§ 13-14. Prohibition of Firearms on County Property.

(1) The possession, carrying or transportation of any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof

- (i) in any building, or part thereof, owned or used, by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity, for governmental purposes;
- (ii) in any park owned or operated by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity;
- (iii) in any recreation or community center facility owned or operated by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity; or
- (iv) in 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 by, or is adjacent to, a County-permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a County permit, is prohibited. In buildings that are not owned by the County, or by any authority or County-created or controlled entity, such ordinance 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) The possession, carrying, storage or transportation of firearms by County employees, agents or volunteers in workplaces owned, operated, leased or managed by the County is prohibited.

(3) This section shall not apply to

- (a) military personnel when acting within the scope of their official duties,
- (b) sworn or retired law enforcement officers,
- (c) private security personnel hired by the County, when any of them are present and on duty in buildings owned, leased or operated by the County or in parks and in any recreational or community facility that is owned or used by the County;

(d) historical re-enactors and any other persons who possess firearms that are inoperative or otherwise incapable of discharging a projectile, and are not loaded with operable ammunition, when such persons are participating in, or traveling to or from, special events that involve the display or demonstration of such firearms and

(e) 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 in (e) above shall follow strict guidelines developed by such institutions for these activities and shall be conducted under the supervision of staff officials of such institutions.

(4) Pursuant to this Section, the County may implement security measures that are designed to reasonably prevent the unauthorized access of such buildings, parks, recreation or community center facilities, or public streets, roads, alleys, or sidewalks or public rights-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit by a person with any firearms, ammunition, or components or combination thereof, such as the use of metal detectors and increased use of security personnel.

(5) Notice of the restrictions imposed by this ordinance shall be posted

(i) at all entrances of any building, or part thereof, owned or used by The County, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the County, for governmental purposes;

(ii) at all entrances of any public park owned or operated by the County, or by any authority of local governmental entity created or controlled by the County;

(iii) at all entrances of any recreation or community center facilities operated by the County, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the County; and

(iv) at all entrances or other appropriate places of ingress and egress to 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 by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

§ 13.15 Penalties.

Any person violating any provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a Class 1 misde