

Ord. 2014-05-06  
of

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS  
IN LONG COUNTY, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the citizens of Long County, Georgia, have reported to the Board of Commissioners that there is a need to regulate the negligent discharge of firearms in Long County, Georgia;

WHEREAS, the County desires to regulate the negligent discharge of firearms and to make certain exceptions where necessary for the defense of property, or when used pursuant to lawful direction of law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the Long County Board of Commissioners believes it is in the best interest of the citizens of Long County, Georgia, that limitations on the discharge of firearms are necessary for the safety and protection of the citizenry and for the protection and use of their property without fear of stray bullets crossing over their property; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Long County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1) Definitions.

Prohibited Discharge Area: Subject to the exceptions outlined hereafter, means any and all real estate located within the unincorporated area of Long County zoned as R1, Single Family Residential District; R2, Single Family Residential District; MRF, Multi-Family Residential District; MHP, Manufactured Home Park District; C1, Neighborhood Commercial District; C2, General Commercial District; I1, Light Industrial; and I2, General Industrial; or any lot of less than four (4) acres, zoned RR, Rural Residential.

County Owned Property: Means any real estate in which Long County owns an interest-fee simple, leasehold, or otherwise and that is also designated as real estate owned by Long County. This includes but is not limited to County office complexes, courthouse or recreational areas.

Firearm: Means any handgun, shotgun, or rifle which expels a projectile by action of an explosion.

Night: Means between the hours of 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise.

- 2) Jurisdiction: This ordinance shall be effective and applicable in Long County, Georgia, outside the corporate limits of any municipality therein.
- 3) Firing of Weapons in Prohibited Area: On and after the effective date hereof, it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm in any prohibited discharge area, as defined herein, unless such person is a law enforcement officer discharging his or her duties or a citizen defending his or her home, property, person or liberty against threatened or imminent attack.

- 4) Firing a Weapon at night on or after the effective date hereof: It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm at night unless such person is a law enforcement officer discharging his or her duties or a citizen defending his or her home, property, person or liberty against threatened or imminent attack, or is permitted to discharge a firearm by regulations of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.
- 5) Exceptions: Excepted from this ordinance are each of the following:
- a. Turkey shoots. Permitted turkey shoots are defined as those authorized in advance by the Long County Code Enforcement after submission by the applicant of a form designated by the Long County Code Enforcement office and payment of a fee of \$10.00
  - b. Permitted shooting areas are defined as a shooting area inspected and approved by the Long County Sheriff's Department as to safety.
  - c. Hunting: Hunting is defined as the lawful taking of birds or animals as authorized by the Official Code of Georgia and other applicable game laws.

6) Violations and Penalties:

Any person who violates the provisions contained herein shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than sixty (60) days, or both.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by authority of same that the following is hereby adopted by Long County, Georgia, to be effective the 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.



Long County, Georgia

By: Robert Long  
Robert Long, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: Mary Ann Odum  
Mary Ann Odum, Clerk

Approved as to form:

B. Jay Swindell  
B. Jay Swindell  
Long County Attorney

First Reading: November 5, 2013

Publication: January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Second Reading: May 6, 2014

Adopted: May 6, 2014