

Coventry Firearms Safety Committee

Steering Committee Update

Date: July 28, 2025

Presented by:

Brian Murray, Chair

Ken Stein, Vice Chair

Committee Focus

Studied firearms use in Coventry—not just ordinance drafting

Research and understand firearm use in Coventry and the State of Connecticut

Evaluate safe use of firearms in Coventry

Responsibility rests with Coventry Police Department for consistent enforcement

Committee Approach

Reviewed federal, state, and local firearm laws

Studied regulations in other Connecticut municipalities

Collected incident data from Coventry police

Considered solutions for identified issues



Research: Peer Municipalities

Studied practices in:

Towns: Newtown, Tolland, Avon, Cromwell, South Windsor

Cities: Norwalk, Stratford, Middletown, Hartford



Key Issues Identified

Safety risks to users and neighbors

No enforceable local safety guidelines:

- Bullet containment
- Minimum distance from homes

Frequent noise complaints (duration and frequency)

Limited enforcement tools for police

Legal Framework & Gaps

State Law:

- Prohibits unlawful discharge
- 500-foot restriction near dwellings/livestock

Local Gaps:

- No local rules on recreational or backyard firearm use
- Enforcement challenges due to regulatory gaps

Draft Ordinance Overview

Developed with police department input

Reviewed by the Town Attorney

Complies with Connecticut law

Key provisions:

- Minimum safe distances
- Limits on time of day and duration
- Required backstops for bullet containment

Next Steps

Seek Town Council approval to continue

Solicit feedback on public comment process

Present final proposal to the Council for consideration