

**Resolution 2026-04
Adopting Ordinance #267**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, AMENDING THE TOWN OF COVENTRY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 66 “OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS”, ADOPTING ARTICLE III “DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND AIR GUNS”; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council charged the “Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee” to review the use of home shooting ranges within the Town of Coventry; and

WHEREAS, The Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee chose to recommend to the Town Council an Ordinance establishing standards and procedures for the discharge of firearms; and

WHEREAS, it is today the desire of the Town Council to enact such an ordinance to promote safety and wellbeing among Coventry residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT THAT:

SECTION ONE – Ordinance #267 shall hereby amend the Coventry Code of Ordinances Chapter 66 “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions” by adopting Article II to read as follows:

“Chapter 66 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE III. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND AIR GUNS

Sec. 66-75. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to establish regulations surrounding the discharge of firearms and air guns on private property to provide for the safety and well-being of the residents of the Town of Coventry

Sec. 66-76. Definitions.

Firearm

Any shotgun, pistol, rifle, revolver, muzzle-loading device or other such weapon which uses chemical propellant to expel a projectile

Air gun

Any device which uses springs, air, compressed gas, or other non-explosive force to expel a projectile

Backstop

A device, structure, or terrain designed to stop and contain projectiles fired on a range

Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club

An organization of individuals which meets the following criteria:

- a) Maintains in good condition a shooting range in a fixed location with an adequate design to contain fired projectiles;
- b) Said shooting range is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws; and
- c) Has criteria for members or other range users to ensure the safe discharge of firearms.

Flammable Materials

For the purposes of this chapter, “flammable materials” is understood to not include wood, paper, leaves or other similar plant-based substances

Sec. 66-77. Safety Requirements.

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms or Air Guns must be the owner of the property on which the discharge is to occur and backstop is located, be the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property, or be an invited guest with the owner of the property present.
- b) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms or Air Guns must do so only with an adequate backstop capable of stopping all projectiles intended to be used. The backstop must be of sufficient depth and strength to contain any projectiles fired or intended to be fired at a range and must be of a sufficient height or size to stop projectiles at any position the shooter intends to use.

- c) Persons wishing to discharge a Firearm must do so at a distance of greater than 250ft from any structure or enclosed outdoor space occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for the storage of flammable materials unless they are the owner of such property, the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, or have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property to discharge a Firearm at a lesser distance. A building is considered to be occupied for the purposes of this ordinance unless it appears from a reasonable inspection of the structure to be unoccupied.
- d) Minors under 18 years of age wishing to shoot Firearms must be properly supervised by a parent or legal guardian of such minor, or another adult with the approval of their parent or legal guardian.

Sec. 66-78. Time Requirements.

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms must do so between the hours of 9:00 AM to sunset as defined in the current Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide.
- b) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms shall select a four (4) hour window per calendar day in accordance with Sec. 66-78(a) in which to do so.

Sec. 66-79. Exceptions.

The restrictions within this Sec. 66 Article III shall not be construed to apply in the following circumstances:

- a) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun by a police officer or animal control officer acting within the scope of their official duties;
- b) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun for the purposes of hunting as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 26-1;
- c) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun for the purposes of defending oneself or other persons from physical force in accordance with all federal, state and local laws;
- d) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun for the purposes of shooting wildlife actively causing property damage or posing an active threat to public safety in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes;
- e) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun at a range on the property of The Manchester Sportsmen's Association, Manchester Coon and Fox Club, or a Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club duly organized in accordance with Town zoning requirements;
- f) The use of a device designed and operated solely for the purposes of construction, such as a nail or staple gun, which by its design might otherwise fall under the definition of a Firearm or Air Gun;
- g) The use of a device designed and operated solely for the purposes of propelling paintballs, airsoft pellets, or other foam, rubber, or plastic projectiles, which by its design might otherwise fall under the definition of an Air Gun;
- h) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun as a part of a memorial ceremony or parade by police officers, active duty members in military service of the United States or Connecticut National Guard, or by a nationally recognized veteran's organization; and

- i) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun as a part of an authorized historical reenactment.

Sec. 66-80. Penalty for violation of article.

Any person who violates the regulations set out in this article shall be punishable by a fine for such a violation pursuant to Sec. 1-10 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances

Secs. 66-81—66-96. Reserved.”

SECTION TWO

Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance #267 are severable. If any word, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Resolution for any reason is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION THREE

Conflicts: All provisions of Chapter 66 inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION FOUR

Effective Date: Ordinance #267 shall become effective 21 days after publication of the legal notice of the adoption of this Ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Coventry, Connecticut on this 2nd day of March 2026.

TOWN OF COVENTRY

TOWN COUNCIL

Lisa Thomas, Chairperson

Attest:

Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk