

9.A. 25/26-30: Consideration/Possible Action: Adoption of Resolution 2026-04, Adopting Ordinance #267, establishing regulations for the discharge of Firearms as Recommended by the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee (E)

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will review and consider, upon completion of a public hearing, Resolution 2026-04 adopting Ordinance #267 which enacts new firearms safety regulations which include safety regulations including the need for an appropriate backstop.

Purpose: Due to several shooting safety concerns and shooting noise complaints reported to the Coventry Police around our community, Town Council in 2024 created a Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee to study the concerns and to determine if there was a need for firearms safety regulations in Coventry. The Committee recommended the adoption of an ordinance to put local guidelines in place to improve the quality of life and safety in discharging a firearm within the Town for non-hunting purposes.

History: The Committee was appointed by Town Council to study the complaints that the Police Department was receiving in residential areas in north and south Coventry. The Committee's Charge indicated that they could recommend an ordinance if they believed one was warranted. In late fall of 2024, they determined that an ordinance should be developed. They reviewed the policies of other CT towns and held several meetings carefully crafting language that would ultimately be in the draft Ordinance. The Committee expressed that they wanted to be careful not to be over restrictive for those wishing to use firearms while also considering safety concerns that may occur in residential areas. They had an advertised public input meeting on September 18, 2025, so that the public could comment on their draft Ordinance. Upon hearing the comments, they made additional amendments taking into consideration most of the comments they received. The Steering Committee discussed the draft Ordinance with the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee leadership and made additional amendments to the draft Ordinance before it was submitted to the Town Council. At the January 2, 2026 Town Council meeting, the Town Council voted to call for a public hearing and consider passing the draft ordinance at the March 2, 2026 Town Council meeting.

Facts about the issue: the Town currently has no regulations related to the discharge of firearms. Some neighboring towns do have regulations, including the Town of Tolland.

Funding Information: There is no direct financial impact to the Town for adopting this Ordinance. The Police Department currently answers calls about noise or safety complaints regarding firearms and so this will not increase calls, but will give officers some policy guidelines in which they can use when these calls come in.

Steering Committee Recommendation: The Steering Committee, at their December 22, 2025, meeting voted to recommend to Town Council that the Town Council consider the draft Ordinance proposed by the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee.

Town Manager Comments: none.

Town Manager's Recommendation: Motion to approve **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.**