

TOWN OF COVENTRY

Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, ESTABLISHING A STUDY COMMITTEE, KNOWN AS THE “FIRE-ARMS SAFETY/HOME SHOOTING RANGE STUDY COMMITTEE” ; ESTABLISHING PURPOSE; CHARGE; MEMBERSHIP; REPRESENTATION; OFFICERS; MEETINGS; REPORTS; STAFF; MINUTES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Whereas, the Town of Coventry in 2023 and 2024 has experienced complaints from residents regarding their safety and the safety of their family due to people shooting fire-arms in residential and rural residential areas within close proximity to their neighbors and their neighbor’s homes; and

Whereas, these complaints and the resulting friction between neighbors has caused the Police Department many hours of time interceding between feuding residents; and

Whereas, the Town Council, Town Manager, and Police Chief wish to promote fire-arms safety within the community and to reduce potential dangerous occurrences of shooting within unsafe distance or trajectory from neighboring properties; and

Whereas, it is the desire of the Town of Coventry to establish a temporary study committee to investigate the unsafe conditions that may exist with discharging firearms in residential areas and at home shooting ranges and to explore potential policy and standards to improve fire-arms safety within the Town.

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

Section One: Establishment; purpose; charge

- A) There is hereby created a temporary committee known as the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Safety Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to study the

challenges associated with firearms safety in the Town of Coventry, especially as it relates to discharging firearms in the direction of, or in areas near, property lines and near neighboring properties with occupied property and/or structures (residential, agriculture, industrial or commercial).

B) The Committee will study various aspects of the problems residents in the Town are facing and balance their safety concerns with the rights of resident firearms owners to safely discharge their guns. The Committee will study and assess potential risks to the health and wellbeing of individuals, pets, and livestock who live or occupy properties in close proximity to the regular discharge of firearms. In studying wellbeing, the nuisance of the level and consistency of noise shall be evaluated. The Committee will study solutions used in other municipalities with similar concerns regarding discharge of firearms near occupied neighboring properties; the Committee will study safe alternatives for the construction of home gun ranges and the best practices for distances that home gun ranges should be from neighboring properties and structures. The Committee will look into the differences in the size, elevation, topography, and zoning of properties when considering potential policy development.

C) Upon Completion of their study, the Committee will determine if an Ordinance should be developed. If it is the finding of the Committee that such an Ordinance is needed, then the Committee will work to draft such an Ordinance with recommended regulations for the Town Council's consideration.

Section Two: members; term; representation; officers

The Committee shall consist of five (5) members. The terms shall be for the life of the Committee, which is not to exceed 9 months, unless extended by Town Council by Resolution. Two members must be firearms instructors of which one shall represent a recognized group shooting range or gun club within the Town; One member shall be a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, and two shall represent the general public. The Planning and Zoning

Commission member shall serve as the Chair of the Committee. The Committee shall elect a Vice Chair, who shall chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair. The Vice Chair shall be elected from among the remaining members.

Section Three: Meetings; reports; staff, minutes.

The Committee shall hold regular publicly noticed open meetings at least monthly and may hold additional special meetings as needed. The Chair and/or Vice Chair shall report to the Town Council at a Town Council Meeting the Committee's study and findings. If an Ordinance is to be drafted, the Chair and/or Vice Chair is to present the draft Ordinance to the Town Council. The Planning and Development Director and the Chief of Police will serve as staff to the Committee. Minutes will be completed by Town staff and placed in record in compliance with State law.

Passed and Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Coventry, Connecticut on this 1st day of July 2024.

TOWN OF COVENTRY
TOWN COUNCIL



Lisa Thomas, Chair

Attest:



Lori Tollman, Town Clerk

