

## ORDINANCE 2017-02

### AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR DISCHARGING FIREARMS IN THE TOWN OF VERONA

**A. NAME.** This Ordinance shall be called the Town of Verona FIREARMS DISCHARGE ORDINANCE.

**B. PURPOSE AND INTENT.** It is hereby declared necessary in the interest of public safety, health, and welfare, and for the protection of persons and property, that the discharging of firearms be regulated within the Town of Verona. Furthermore, it is in the interest of minimizing public nuisance and danger without excessively or unnecessarily curtailing the responsible discharge of firearms with the Town boundaries.

**C. AUTHORITY.** Wis. Stat. §66.0409(3)(b) permits the Town to regulate and restrict the discharge of firearms within the Town's boundaries. The Town has been authorized to exercise village powers pursuant to §60.22(3), Wis. Stats.; as such §61.34, Wis. Stats further authorizes to Town to enact ordinances restricting the discharge of firearms.

#### **D. REPEAL OF EXISTING ORDINANCES.**

1. Ordinance 69-3, regulating the discharging or firing of certain firearms in the Town of Verona, adopted on October 1, 1969, is hereby repealed and replaced by this ordinance.
2. Any other existing Town ordinances that are inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed in part to the extent they are inconsistent, and are replaced in pertinent part by this ordinance.

**E. DEFINITION.** As used in this ordinance, the term firearm shall mean any revolver, pistol, shotgun, rifle, or similar device which is designed or intended to propel a projectile or projectiles by the burning of powder within a cartridge or barrel that creates a quantity of gas to expand and propel the projectile or projectiles.

**F. PROHIBITED USE OF FIREARMS.** No firearm shall be discharged within the Town of Verona, except as provided in Section G and Section H. The provisions of this ordinance, however, shall not be deemed to apply to any law enforcement, military, and National Guard personnel who discharge a firearm in the Town in the pursuit of their official duties. The provisions of this ordinance shall not be deemed to prohibit any person from the discharge of a firearm when said discharge is reasonably necessary for the protection of life or property or is otherwise privileged under §939.45, Wis. Stats.

#### **G. PERMITTED USE OF FIREARMS.**

1. **HUNTING AND PEST CONTROL.** The discharge of a firearm for hunting or pest control is permitted as allowed by Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regulations.
2. **TARGET PRACTICE AND GUN SIGHTING.** The discharge of a firearm for target practice or gun sighting is permitted as allowed by state law and subject to the following restrictions:
  - a) The firearms discharge area shall contain all shots fired. The propelled bullet, shot or

missile shall not pass over or land on the premises of another without permission of the affected property owner(s).

- b) Firearms shall not be discharged within 100 feet of a property line without written permission of an owner or occupant of the abutting premises.
- c) Firearms may be discharged only between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and one half hour before sunset.
- d) The duration of firearms discharges is limited to a period of two hours per day. The allowed period shall be measured from the initial firearm discharge to the final firearm discharge on any calendar day. This paragraph shall not apply to:
  - i. Firearms discharges from any point at least 1,500 feet from the nearest residence not located on the same property as the property on which the discharge occurs; or
  - ii. Firearms discharges within such 1,500-foot distance if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
    - (1) The Town Clerk has been provided with an agreement signed by an owner or occupant of each residence within 1,500 feet of the firearms discharge area consenting to the discharge of firearms within such 1,500-foot distance.
    - (2) The agreement specifies the agreed-upon firearms discharge area and the dates and times when such discharges may occur.
    - (3) The agreement includes an expiration date not later than one year from the date of the agreement.
    - (4) The Town Clerk or designee has verified in writing that the agreement includes a signature from an owner or occupant of each residence within the 1,500-foot radius of the specified firearms discharge area.
    - (5) The agreement provides that, in the event any person signing the agreement ceases to be the owner or occupant of the respective premises, the agreement terminates within fourteen (14) days after the premises become owned or occupied by another party unless the Clerk is provided with a written consent from the new owner or occupant.
    - (6) All firearms discharges are in compliance with the terms of the agreement.

**H. ESTABLISHED SPORT SHOOTING RANGES.** This ordinance shall not apply to the maintenance and use of a lawfully established and duly supervised rifle or pistol range or shooting gallery approved by the Town Board.

**I. PENALTY.** Any Person discharging firearms in violation of this ordinance, and owners of any property upon which the violation occurs shall be subject to forfeitures as provided in Chapter 16 of the Town of Verona Code of Ordinances.

**J. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance becomes effective within (30) days after enactment and the day after publication as required by law.

Passed on the seventh day of March, 2017 by the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Verona

---

Mark Geller, Chair

I, John Wright, Clerk/Treasurer of the Town of Verona, do hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was duly passed and adopted by the Verona Town Board of Supervisors at the March 7, 2017 meeting and a summary subsequently published in the March 16, 2017 edition of the Verona Press

---

John Wright, Clerk/Treasurer