

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COUNTY OF KING WILLIAM

PROPOSED COUNTY CODE AMENDMENT REGULATING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND ARROWS FROM BOWS IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISIONS

Pursuant to Sections 15.2-1427 and 15.2-1209 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Board of Supervisors of King William County, Virginia, shall conduct a public hearing on Monday, March 22, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room of the King William County Administration Building at King William Court House to receive public comment and to consider the following proposed amendment to Chapter 42 of the King William County Code: adding Article V, entitled "Discharge of Firearms" (also known as, the Shooting Ordinance).

The proposed amendment would: prohibit the outdoor shooting of firearms and arrows from bows within one hundred (100) yards of any dwelling or place where the public gathers in certain residential and commercial subdivisions that may be designated in the future by the Board of Supervisors following an advertised public hearing; provide exemptions to the ordinance, including the hunting of deer in certain situations, shooting within one hundred (100) yards of a person's own dwelling and self-defense; establish a procedure, including an advertised public hearing, whereby residents or property owners within residential or commercial subdivisions may petition the Board of Supervisors to have such subdivisions become subject to the provisions of the ordinance; and provide penalties for violations of the ordinance.

The Board of Supervisors may establish time limits for speakers and other rules governing the conduct of the public hearing.

A copy of the proposed county code amendment (ordinance) is available for public inspection and may be purchased at the King William County Administrator's Office during normal business hours. The office is located in the King William County Administration Building, 180 Horse Landing Road (Post Office Box 215), King William, Virginia 23086; telephone: (804) 769-4927. The proposed county code amendment is also available for inspection on the county Internet web site at www.kingwilliamcounty.us.

Written comments regarding the proposed county code amendment may be submitted to the King William County Administrator's Office at the aforementioned address or by facsimile at (804) 769-4964 by 4:30 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2010, or presented to the Board of Supervisors during the public hearing.

Frank A. Pleva
King William County Administrator

Publish: *Tidewater Review*, Wednesday, March 10; and
Tidewater Review, Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Post: County Internet Web Site
County Administration Building Lobby Bulletin Board
County Administrator's Office Bulletin Board

KING WILLIAM COUNTY CODE

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT REGULATING
THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND ARROWS FROM BOWS
IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISIONS
(ALSO KNOWN AS, THE SHOOTING ORDINANCE)**

Chapter 42

OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE V. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

Sec. 42-131. Prohibiting outdoor shooting of firearms or arrows from bows.

- (a) It shall be unlawful to shoot a firearm or arrows from bows outdoors on any lot in a residential subdivision, whether a major subdivision, minor subdivision or a commercial subdivision, or within one hundred (100) yards of any building occupied or used as a dwelling or place where the public gathers in the areas described within this Section 42-133 or a public road.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, "bow" includes all compound bows, crossbows, longbows and recurve bows having a peak draw weight of ten (10) pounds or more. The term "bow" does not include bows that have a peak draw of less than ten (10) pounds or that are designed or intended to be used principally as toys. The term "arrow" means a shaft-like projectile intended to be shot from a bow.
- (c) The outdoor shooting of firearms or arrows from bows shall be exempted from this section for the killing of deer pursuant to Section 29.1-529 of the Code of Virginia. Such exemption for the shooting of firearms shall apply on land of at least five acres that is zoned for agricultural use. Such exemption shall apply to the shooting of arrows from bows on land of at least two acres that is zoned for agricultural use.
- (d) This Section shall not apply to any person who is shooting a firearm or arrows from bows within 100 yards of such person's dwelling.
- (e) This Section shall not apply to any person who discharges a firearm or arrow in self-defense.
- (f) This Section shall not be construed to violate any citizens' right to bear arms under Article 2 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

Sec. 42-132. Petition to become subject to ordinance.

- (a) Any person or association of people, who reside in or own property in a subdivision, residential or commercial, may petition the Board of Supervisors to have such subdivision subject to this ordinance by filing with the Clerk of the Board of

Supervisors an application approved by the Board of Supervisors and paying the fee set by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors shall advertise the proposed ordinance change as provided by law and shall approve or deny any such changes or additions to this ordinance by a majority vote of a quorum at such properly advertised public meeting after allowing public comment on the petition.

Section 42-133. Subdivisions subject to Sec. 42-131.

- (a) The following subdivisions are subject to the restrictions of this Article V.

Section 42-134. Punishment for violation.

- (a) Any person convicted of violating this ordinance shall be deemed to be guilty of a Class One Misdemeanor and punished as proscribed for such misdemeanors.

State law reference – Section 15.2-1209, *Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended*