

ORDINANCE NO. ____ SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDING CHAPTER 242 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES ADDING SECTION 242-5 PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND POLLING PLACES

WHEREAS the Board of Representatives desires to adopt an ordinance prohibiting the possession of explosives and firearms in government buildings and near polling places during times when voting is taking place, in order to ensure the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Stamford and to protect them from the use of explosives and firearms in Government Buildings.

Sec. 242-5. Possession of Firearms and Explosives in Government Buildings and Polling Places Prohibited.

A. Definitions.

1. *Explosive.* The word “explosive” as use herein, has the same meaning as the word “explosive” as defined by Connecticut General Statutes § 29-343.
2. *Firearm.* Any instrument designed, made, and intended to expel a projectile by means of explosion of a combustible material, including but not limited to any sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver or other weapon, whether loaded or unloaded. The firearm need not be operable or capable of firing.
3. *Government Building.* Any building, its grounds, approaches, and appurtenances, that is owned, leased, or controlled by the City of Stamford. The word *Government Building* as used herein also includes the portion of any building that is owned, leased, or controlled by the City of Stamford.

B. Acts Prohibited.

1. No person may possess any explosive or any firearm, whether in an open or concealed manner, in any Government Building.
2. No person may possess any explosive or any firearm, whether in an open or concealed manner, within 500 feet of any polling location or a ballot drop box within the City of Stamford on the day of an election or during the time when voting is permitted for any election or at a place officially designated for the counting of ballots on any day when ballots are being counted or conducting activities related to a federal, state, or municipal election.

C. Notice of Prohibitions.

1. Notice of the prohibitions set forth herein shall be posted conspicuously at all public entrances to the locations wherein the prohibition is applicable.

(a) No person shall be determined to violate this section if signs are not posted as required by this subsection.

D. Exceptions.

1. The provisions of this ordinance do not apply to:

(a) Any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer when engaged in official duties.

(b) Any member of the United States Armed Forces or Connecticut National Guard when engaged in official duties.

(c) Private security guards acting in the course of their duties and with appropriate permits.

(d) The carrying or possession of a firearm inside a private motor vehicle.

E. Penalties.

1. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Article shall be required to immediately leave the premises. A person who does not leave the premises when required may be subject to additional criminal penalties including but not limited to criminal trespass.

2. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Article shall be fined an amount not exceeding Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).

F. Severability Clause.

If any section, clause, sentence, or part of this ordinance is adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the other provisions of this ordinance which can be given effect without such invalid provision.