

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF ASCENSION

ORDINANCE

PURPOSE: To amend the Ascension Parish Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13. Occupational Licenses, Taxes and Regulations, to add Article XIV. Outdoor Shooting Range Facilities, Section 13-192 through Section 13-203.

WHEREAS: Ascension Parish is a local governmental subdivision as defined by Article VI, Section 44 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974, and

WHEREAS: Parish of Ascension is the governing and responsible body over the consolidated utilities district within this jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS: Article VI of the Home Rule Charter of Ascension Parish, adopted May 4, 1993, identifies the process and manner in which to adopt ordinances regulating the lands of this parish, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Ascension Parish Governing Authority that the Ascension Parish Code of Ordinances, of Ascension Parish Louisiana, is amended to add: Chapter 13. Occupational Licenses, Taxes and Regulations, Article XIV. Outdoor Shooting Range Facilities, Section 13-192 through Section 13-203.as more fully described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

SEVERABILITY: In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is ever held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction over it, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provisions and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall be in full effect as permitted by law.
This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: Alvin Thomas, Joel Robert, Dempsey Lambert, Chase Melancon, Aaron Lawler, Teri
Casso, Dal Waguespack, John Cagnolatti, Michael Mason

Nays: None

Not Voting: None

Absent: Corey Orgeron, Travis Turner

And this ordinance was passed on this 7th day of October , 2021

/s/ Cinnamon McKey
Secretary

/s/ Clint Cointment
President

CODE OF ORDINANCES OF ASCENSION PARISH

CHAPTER 13 – OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES, TAXES AND REGULATIONS

ARTICLE XIV – OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGE FACILITIES

SECTION 13-192 PURPOSE

This Shooting Range Ordinance is intended to regulate the establishment and operation of outdoor shooting range facilities. Due to their potential noise impacts and safety concerns, shooting range facilities merit careful review to minimize adverse effects on adjoining properties. This ordinance does not otherwise apply to the general discharge of firearms or the use of bows and arrows in accordance with all other applicable laws or regulations. This ordinance shall not include incidental target practice areas on private property.

SECTION 13-193 INTENT

It is the intent of this ordinance to accomplish the following:

A) PERMITTING, REGISTRATION, AND COMPLIANCE

Outdoor shooting range facilities shall only be established and operated in accordance with a valid permit issued by the Parish of Ascension.

B) SHOT CONTAINMENT

Each outdoor shooting range facility shall be designed to contain the bullets, shot, and ricochets of the same discharge at or within the shooting range facility.

C) NOISE CONTAINMENT

Each outdoor shooting range facility shall be designed to minimize off-site noise impacts generated by the activities conducted on the shooting range facility, subject to the protections afforded under LA R.S. 30:2055.1.

SECTION 13-194 DEFINITIONS

As used in this ordinance, the following terms shall have the respective meanings ascribed to them:

dBA: The sound pressure level, in decibels, as measured on a precision sound level meter on the A-weighted scale.

EPA Lead Management Guidelines: Shall mean, at any given time, the latest edition of the United State Environmental Protection Agency's Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges.

Firearm(s): A weapon, including but not limited to pistols, rifles, and shotguns, capable of firing a projectile using an explosive charge as a propellant.

NRA Range Source Book: Shall mean, at any given time, the latest edition of the Range Source Book as published by the National Rifle Association.

Occupied Dwelling(s): Shall mean any public, residential, or commercial structure that is legally occupied by one or more persons.

Person(s): Any natural person, corporation, partnership, firm, association, or club.

Outdoor Shooting Range(s): An area designed and improved to encompass shooting stations or firing lines, target areas, berms and baffles, and any other related components.

Outdoor Shooting Range Facility(ies): A public or private facility, including individual shooting ranges, safety fans or shotfall zones, structures, parking areas, and any other associated improvements, designed for the purpose of providing a place for the discharge of firearms; provided, however, that a shooting range facility shall not include incident target practice areas on private property.

Shotfall Zone(s): An area within which the shot or pellets contained in a shotgun shell typically fall.

Structure(s): A walled or roofed building that is principally above ground or any other permanent, manmade facility.

Surface Danger Zone(s): Any area that may reasonably expect projectile impact resulting from direct fire, including misdirected and accidental discharges, and ricochets from any firearm, which takes into consideration all mitigation efforts as submitted by the applicant and determined by a professional engineer registered in the State of Louisiana.

Target(s): Any object or area that is used as the intended recipient of the projectiles fired from a firearm.

Parish: The Parish of Ascension.

SECTION 13-195 APPLICABILITY

This ordinance is applicable to all existing and future outdoor shooting range facilities in the Parish.

SECTION 13-196 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The following performance standards shall apply to all outdoor shooting range facilities in the Parish:

A) SHOT CONTAINMENT

Outdoor shooting range facilities shall be designed to contain all the bullets, shot, or other projectiles and any other debris within the shooting range facility.

B) NOISE MITIGATION

The Parish may implement noise level standards at the property lines and nearest occupied dwellings, subject to the protections afforded under LA R.S. 2055.1.

SECTION 13-197 DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

A) MINIMUM DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Where not otherwise specified within this ordinance, outdoor shooting range facilities shall meet or exceed the design standards for general and utility type of range specified by the NRA Range Source Book and as required by other regulatory agencies as they may apply.

B) SETBACKS

All shooting stations and targets on an outdoor shooting range facility shall be located a minimum of three hundred (300) feet from any property line. The surface danger zone shall be contained within the property boundary line.

C) WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs meeting or exceeding the standards set forth in the NRA Range Source Book shall be posted at one hundred (100) foot intervals along the entire perimeter of the outdoor shooting range and along the entire perimeter of the property lines in the same intervals.

D) DISTANCE FROM OCCUPIED DWELLING

All shooting stations, targets, and firing lines shall be located at least one-half (1/2) mile (two thousand six hundred forty (2,640) feet) from any existing occupied dwelling.

E) ACCESS TO SHOOTING RANGE FACILITY

Access to the shooting range facility and shooting range shall be secured and controlled during those hours of operation as established in Section 13-198(c).

SECTION 13-198 OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A) MAINTENANCE

Where not otherwise specified within this ordinance, outdoor shooting range facilities shall be operated and maintained in a manner that shall meet or exceed the standards specified in the NRA Range Source Book.

B) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Outdoor shooting range facilities shall provide a plan outlining its best management practices relating to lead management. Said plan shall meet or exceed the standards set forth in the EPA Lead Management Guidelines.

C) HOURS OF OPERATION

Outdoor shooting range facilities shall be allowed to operate between 8:00am to one-half (1/2) hour before sunset Sunday through Saturday.

SECTION 13-199 PROCEDURE FOR SECURING APPROVAL FOR OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGES

The legal property owner(s) or lessee (or their agent) shall maintain a valid permit from the Parish to establish and operate an outdoor shooting range facility.

A) PERMIT APPLICATION

An application for a permit to establish and operate an outdoor shooting range facility shall be submitted by the legal property owner(s) or lessee (or their agent) to the Parish Permit Office. The application shall contain detailed contact information regarding the applicant. Such permit shall be secured prior to issuance of any other grading, building, or improvement permit by the Parish.

B) FEES

Standard permitting fees shall apply.

C) REQUIRED INFORMATION

The applicant shall provide sufficient information to demonstrate compliance with these provisions, which shall include a detailed description of the types and uses of firearms and ammunition either used or proposed to be used at the site.

D) SITE PLAN

A site plan for the entire outdoor shooting range facility that shows the following applicable information drawn by a licensed professional to a scale.

1. Property lines for any parcel upon which the outdoor shooting range facility is to be located, north arrow, plan scale, date, and ownership information for the site;
2. Complete layout of each outdoor shooting range facility, including shooting stations or firing lines, target areas, shotfall zones or backdrops, berms, and baffles, if any;
3. Projected noise contours sufficient to demonstrate compliance with existing noise ordinance;
4. Existing and proposed structures; occupied dwellings within one-half (1/2) mile (two thousand six hundred forty (2,640) feet); roads, streets, or other access areas; buffer areas; and parking areas for the outdoor shooting range facility; and
5. Any other appropriate information related to the specific type of outdoor shooting range facility, whether existing or proposed.

The Parish may allow different site plan scales where it deems appropriate.

E) ACTION

The Parish shall take the following actions:

Permit applications and all submitted information and documents shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the Parish Review Engineer. The Planning Commission shall make a recommendation to the Parish Council whether the project should be approved or rejected.

The Parish Council shall approve or reject the project with a majority vote of the Council.

With a majority vote of the Council, the permit to construct and operate the outdoor shooting range facility shall be issued by the Permit Office per the submitted and reviewed plans.

SECTION 13-200 COMPLIANCE OF EXISTING OUTDOOR SHOOTING RANGE FACILITIES

A) COMPLIANCE

All existing outdoor shooting range facilities shall comply with said ordinance within one hundred eighty (180) days after the effective date of this ordinance.

B) INSPECTION, ENFORCEMENT AND AUTHORITY

Inspection of premises authority and enforcement authority are authorized for:

- 1) The Parish Building Official, and/or;
- 2) The Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, and/or;
- 3) Any state or federal agency in accordance with state and federal regulations.

In cases of violations of this ordinance, or any local, state, or federal law, the Parish may serve written notice by certified mail and revoke the permit to operate said outdoor shooting range facility.

C) PENALTY

Any person constructing or operating an outdoor shooting range facility within the Parish, without a valid permit to construct or operate an outdoor shooting range facility from the Parish, shall be fined five hundred dollars (\$500.00) a day unto the fullest extent of the law.

D) ABANDONMENT AND DISCONTINUANCE

When an existing outdoor shooting range facility is discontinued without the intent to reinstate the shooting range use, the property owner shall notify the Parish of such intent. In any event, the discontinuance of the shooting range facility or non-use of the outdoor shooting range facility for a period in excess of one (1) year shall create the presumption said shooting range facility is abandoned and any current, valid permits issued shall terminate. If there has been no shooting activity for a period of three (3) years, resumption of shooting shall require a permit as a new outdoor shooting range facility for the purposes of this ordinance.

SECTION 13-201 TRANSFERABILITY

Permits issued and maintained by the legal property owner(s) or lessee (or their agent) to construct and operate an outdoor shooting range facility with the Parish is non-transferable.

SECTION 13-202 CHANGES OR EXPANSIONS

If any outdoor shooting range facility is intended to be substantially changed or expanded to include types of outdoor shooting ranges, operations, or activities not covered by an existing permit, a new permit for the entire facility shall be secured in accordance with all of the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 13-203 EXEMPTIONS

All government agencies and any range operated by the Baton Rouge Rifle & Pistol Club, LLC dba Palo Alto Rifle & Pistol Club are exempt from said ordinance.