

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE DISCHARGE OF
FIREARMS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LAURENS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Laurens County Council deems it in the best interest of its citizens to prevent and protect the public from the negligent use of firearms within the unincorporated areas of the County of Laurens, and:

NOW THEREFORE, Laurens County Council, duly assembled, hereby ordains:

Section 1. Purpose: Laurens County Council desires to protect the public in the unincorporated areas of Laurens County from the negligent use of firearms.

Section 2. Authority: Laurens County Council having recognized and enacted pursuant to § 4-9-30 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, which provides for the enactment of ordinances for the implementation of the powers of County Council in reference to the public health, public safety and police protection. This Ordinance is further enacted pursuant to § 23-31-520 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

Section 3 Negligent Firearm Discharge Defined: It shall be unlawful for any person in the unincorporated area of Laurens County to intentionally, negligently or carelessly discharge a firearm in such a manner as to be likely to cause bodily injury or death to persons or domestic livestock or to cause damage or destruction to private property.

It shall be unlawful for any person in the unincorporated areas of Laurens County to discharge a firearm, other than a shotgun, within three hundred (300) yards of any dwelling, church, business or school. Further, it shall be unlawful to discharge a shotgun within one hundred (100) yards of any dwelling, church, business or school.

Section 4. Exceptions: Section 3 above shall not apply to any of the following:

- 1.) A rifle, pistol, skeet, trap or sporting clays range operated by a recognized club, meeting required national (NRA) recognized safety standards;
- 2.) A person target shooting on his own property or on other property with the written permission of the owner of said property, exhibiting reasonable safety with regard to persons and / or property set forth in Section 3;
- 3.) A person legally hunting on his own property or the property of another with written permission and exhibiting reasonable safety regards for persons and property listed in Section 3;
- 4.) Law Enforcement Officers discharging firearms in the line of duty;
- 5.) A person discharging a firearm in self-defense;

- 6.) A person acting for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to control nuisance wildlife.

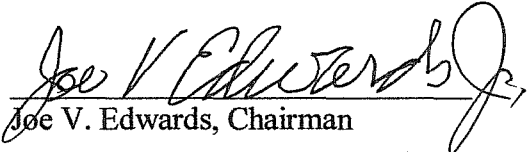
Section 5. Penalties: Any person who violates this Ordinance shall, upon a conviction thereof, be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) or imprisoned for more than thirty (30) days.

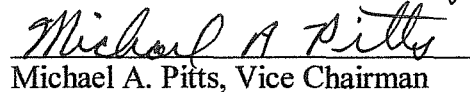
Section 6. Jurisdiction: Any person charged under this Ordinance shall be tried in the Magistrate Court of the County and such Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

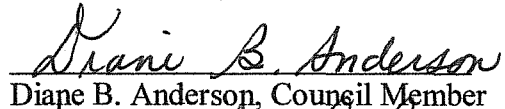
Section 7. Severability – Should any portion of this Ordinance be deemed unconstitutional by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the portions not deemed unconstitutional shall remain in full force and effect.

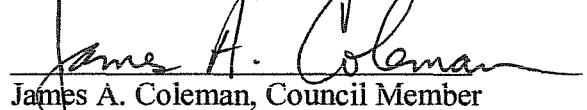
Section 8. Effective Date: The effective date of this Ordinance shall be upon final reading and approval as prescribed by law.

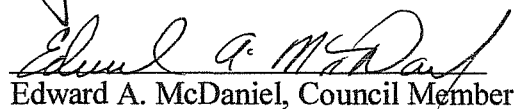
LAURENS COUNTY COUNCIL:

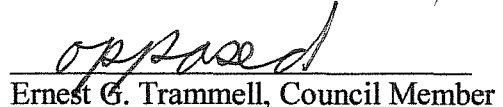

Joe V. Edwards, Chairman

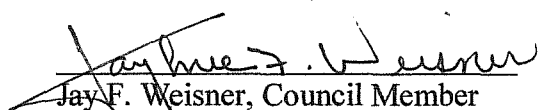

Michael A. Pitts, Vice Chairman


Diane B. Anderson, Council Member



James A. Coleman, Council Member



Edward A. McDaniel, Council Member


Ernest G. Trammell, Council Member


Jay F. Weisner, Council Member

ATTEST:


Ernest B. Segars, Administrator
Laurens County Council
Laurens County, South Carolina


Betty C. Walsh, Clerk
Laurens County Council
Laurens County, South Carolina

First Reading: July 30, 2001
Second Reading: August 14, 2001
Public Hearing: September 11, 2001
Third Reading: September 11, 2001