

**AN ORDINANCE**

TO AMEND CHAPTER 30 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF LIBERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA SO AS TO MAKE UNLAWFUL THE UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY; TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**WHEREAS**, by this Ordinance and the provisions contained herein, the governing authority of Liberty County, Georgia desires to further protect the health, welfare and safety of the citizens and residents of Liberty County, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, the prohibitions and limitations set forth in this Ordinance are determined to be reasonable and otherwise consistent with above stated public purposes.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the governing authority of Liberty County, Georgia:

**SECTION I.**  
**ORDINANCE TEXT**

Chapter 30 of the Code of Ordinances of Liberty County, Georgia is hereby amended by adding and inserting the following Article III, to wit:

**ARTICLE III. ILLEGAL DISCHARGE OF FIREARM.**

**Sec. 30-36. Prohibited Conduct.**

Unless otherwise provided in Sec. 30-37, it shall be unlawful for any person within the unincorporated areas of the County to discharge a firearm:

- (1) on any property within the unincorporated area of the County, except that the discharge of firearms shall be permitted consistent with this Article III on property zoned Dunes and Marshland (DM-1) and on any single lot, tract, or parcel of land, consisting of no less than two (2) acres and wholly located within one or more of the following zoning districts: Agricultural (A-1), Agricultural Residential (AR-1), Single-Family Residential (R-1), Two-Family Residential (R-2), and One- and Two-Family Residential (R-2A);
- (2) within 1,000 feet of any schoolhouse or any dwelling or structure intended and suitable for residential occupancy, the conduct of in-person

business, or as a place of regular worship or public meeting, without the express permission of the owner of said dwelling or structure;

- (3) on any park or other property owned or controlled by the Board of Commissioners of Liberty County, without the prior written consent of said Board or its designated department, agency, or official;
- (4) on the property of another, without the express permission of the owner of said property;
- (5) so as to fire across, or cause any bullet, ball, shot, or other projectile from said firearm to land on, the property of another, without the express permission of the owner of said property;
- (6) at night, the same being the period beginning thirty (30) minutes after sunset until thirty (30) minutes before sunrise; or
- (7) when target shooting, without taking the following safety precautions: (a) use of an appropriate natural or man-made backstop (e.g. upland slope, berm, timbers, etc.) of such material, size, and orientation that will safely stop and render harmless the bullet or other projectile being fired; and (b) use of targets of such material and placed at such height and relation to a backstop so as to significantly minimize any overshoot or ricochet.

**Sec. 30-37. Regulatory Exceptions.**

Notwithstanding Sec. 30-36, this Article and the prohibitions contained herein shall not apply:

- (1) to any person acting with legal justification in the defense of person or property;
- (2) to any property owned or controlled by the United States or the State of Georgia, or any department or authority thereof, including, without limitation, the United States Army;
- (3) to law enforcement officers, animal control officers, or other government employees or agents authorized to carry a firearm when in the performance of their official duties; or
- (4) with respect to Sec. 30-36(1) and (2), the (a) business location of a duly licensed firearms dealer or indoor or outdoor sport shooting range, or (b) lands regularly and actively used as of September 1, 2021 as a hunting club, hunting preserve, shooting preserve, or similar operations, whether public or private, and the activities thereon, so long as said lands are

continuously or seasonally used for such purposes in compliance with applicable law, including, without limitation, the Georgia Game and Fish Code, O.C.G.A. § 27-1-1 and related regulations of the Georgia Board of Natural Resources; or

- (5) with respect to Section 30-36(2), lands regularly and actively used as a hunting club, hunting preserve, shooting preserve, sport shooting range, or similar operations, whether public or private, and the activities thereon, which violate said Section 30-36(2) solely as a result of changed conditions in or around the locality of such lands and so long as said lands have been used for such purposes for at least a year prior to said changed conditions and are continuously or seasonally used thereafter for the same purposes in compliance with applicable law, including, without limitation, the Georgia Game and Fish Code, O.C.G.A. § 27-1-1 and related regulations of the Georgia Board of Natural Resources; or
- (6) with respect to Section 30-36(6), any person holding a duly issued hunting license and engaged in the night hunting of permitted species in accordance with law.

**Sec. 30-38. Cumulative of State Law.**

This Article III shall be subject to all existing and future laws of the State of Georgia regulating firearms and their discharge, and shall remain in full force and effect to the extent not preempted or otherwise prohibited by said laws.

**SECTION II  
SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of this Ordinance is declared to be invalid, such declaration shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION III  
REPEALER**

All ordinances and parts of ordinances in direct conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**SECTION IV  
EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall become effective on this the 1st day of September, 2021.

[ Ordinance No.                      - Signature Page ]

**APPROVED** this 19th day of August, 2021.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
LIBERTY COUNTY, GEORGIA**

(OFFICIAL SEAL)



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