

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE prohibiting the discharge of firearms in certain areas of Thurston County with zoning regulations that allow for residential densities of greater than one dwelling unit per five acres and along the marine shorelines and adding a new section to Chapter 10.04 of the Thurston County Code.

WHEREAS, certain portions of Thurston County contain zoning regulations that allow for residential densities greater than one dwelling unit per five acres; and

WHEREAS, lot sizes in such zoned areas are such that homes are located in close proximity to each other; and

WHEREAS, discharge of firearms in close proximity to residences poses a danger to public peace and safety; and

WHEREAS, waterfowl hunting utilizing shotguns with a maximum firing range of approximately 300 yards occurs from watercraft in the marine waters along the shorelines of Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, firing shotguns towards the shoreline from a distance closer than 300 yards creates a danger to people and property on the shoreline; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the public health, peace, and safety that the shooting of firearms be regulated in said areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THURSTON COUNTY that there is hereby added a new section to Chapter 10.04 Thurston County Code to read as follows:

Thurston County. It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm at any time in Thurston County, State of Washington, in the following described areas of the County:

All those areas outside city limits that lie within adopted Thurston County Urban Growth Areas; and

All those areas zoned Residential LAMIRD One Dwelling Unit Per Two Acres; and

All those areas zoned Residential LAMIRD One Dwelling Unit Per Acre; and

All those areas zoned Residential LAMIRD Two Dwelling Units Per Acre; and

All that portion of land and marine waters of Puget Sound lying 300 yards, waterward, from the ordinary high water line; and

That portion of Eld Inlet south of an east-west line starting from a Point 300 feet North of the Meander Line as it crosses the East Line of Section 31, Township 19, North Range 2 West, thence due Westerly across Eld Inlet to the Western Shoreline; and

That portion of Henderson Inlet South of the North line of Section 17, Township 19 North, Range 1 West;

Excepted from the above described areas are those lands and waterways already within the boundaries of an adopted No Shooting or Controlled Shooting zone, contained in Chapter 10.04 of the Thurston County Code, in effect on the date of adoption of this ordinance.

Provided, this section does not restrict the rights of a person, acting in self defense, to take reasonable actions which, but for this section, would be allowed by law.

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Thurston County, Washington

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

JON TUNHEIM  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Petrich, WSBA#  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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Commissioner

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*Any area subject to a No Shooting Ordinance must comply with the allowances for establishment of such ordinance as provided in RCW 9.41.300. The State statute allows Counties to restrict the discharge of firearms where there is a reasonable likelihood that humans, domestic animals, or property will be jeopardized.*

*Prior to scheduling a public hearing for this proposed ordinance, the draft ordinance must be reviewed for form by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.*