

November 4, 1996

Introduced By:

Pullen

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Proposed No.:

96-928

ORDINANCE NO. **12551**

AN ORDINANCE relating to shooting ranges and amending Ordinance 11563, Sections 2-4, Ordinance 11177, Sections 4, 7-11 and K.C.C. 6.84.030-6.84.090 and adding a new section.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 11563, Section 2, and K.C.C. 6.84.020 are hereby

amended to read as follows:

Definitions. A. "Operator" means the operating license applicant, and any of its officers, directors, partners, or owners. ("Shooting Range" means a facility designed for and providing a confined space for safe target practice with firearms. Archery ranges are specifically excluded from this definition.)

B. "Range" means any individual or group of firing positions for a specific shooting type.

C. "Range master" means a person or persons appointed by the operators of a shooting ((range)) sports facility to oversee the safe discharge of shotguns, rifles, or ((pistols)) handguns in accordance with the ((design standards and)) safety specifications of this chapter and any additional safety specifications which may be adopted by the operators of the shooting ((range)) sports facility.

D. "Shooting Sports Facility" means a facility designed and specifically delineated for safe shooting practice with firearms. Archery ranges are specifically excluded from this definition.

E. "Shooting types" means rifle, handgun or shotgun shooting.

SECTION 2. Ordinance No. 11177, Section 5, and K.C.C. 6.84.030 are hereby

amended to read as follows:

License required. The operators of all existing shooting ((ranges)) sports facilities shall apply for an operating license ((within)) no later than three months ((of)) from the

1 effective date of this chapter (January 9, 1994.), The operator of each new shooting sports
 2 facility shall apply for an operating license at the time of application for building permits or
 3 land use permits necessary for the new facility. Said, ((on an)) application shall be made
 4 on a form prescribed by the manager of the King County licensing and regulatory services
 5 division. The King County licensing and regulatory services division is authorized to issue
 6 such license after a determination that ((the design standards and safety specifications set
 7 forth in this chapter are satisfied)) the application is accurate and complete, and includes a
 8 notarized certification by the shooting sports facility operator that the facility meets
 9 commonly accepted shooting facility safety and design practices and will be operated in a
 10 manner which protects the safety of the general public. The licensing and regulatory services
 11 division shall base ((their)) its licensing determination on the review and concurrence of the
 12 King County departments of public safety and development and environmental services or
 13 their designees. This section shall not relieve the applicant of ((any applicant of)) any
 14 obligation to obtain any other required land use or building permits or approvals, except
 15 shooting ((ranges)) sports facilities in operation prior to the effective date of this chapter
 16 (January 9, 1994) shall not be required to seek new land use or building permits solely for
 17 issuance of a license.

18 SECTION 3. Ordinance No. 11563, Section 3, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.84.040 are
 19 hereby amended to read as follows:

20 Operating without a license prohibited. No shooting ((range)) sports facility shall
 21 operate without a license issued pursuant to this chapter, provided, that ((clubs and ranges))
 22 shooting sports facilities in existence prior to ((the effective date of Ordinance 11177))
 23 January 9, 1994 ((9)) that have submitted required license applications before this same date
 24 may continue to operate without a license ((for no more than twenty four months from the
 25 effective date, or the date permits are issued, whichever is later if needed permits are applied
 26 for within one year of notification by the King County department of licensing of facility
 27 modifications required by this chapter and the operating license application requirements set
 28 forth in)) pending license application approval or denial per K.C.C. 6.84.030 have been met.

29 SECTION 4. Ordinance 11177, Section 7, and K.C.C. 6.84.050 are hereby amended
 30 to read as follows:

1 Denial, suspension or revocation of license. The manager of the licensing and
2 regulatory services division may deny, suspend or revoke any license issued under this
3 chapter, consistent with K.C.C. chapter 6.01, if the applicant, any of its officers, directors,
4 partners, or members have violated any of the provisions of this chapter. Further, if the
5 King County department of public safety sheriff-director determines that any participant,
6 spectator, neighboring property or member of the public has been injured or endangered as a
7 result of range design, operation or management of shooting activities, the manager of the
8 licensing and regulatory services division may immediately suspend or revoke any shooting
9 sports facility license issued pursuant to this chapter. Reinstatement or re-issuance of any
10 license suspended or revoked pursuant to the provisions of this chapter will be contingent on
11 review and determination by the King County licensing and regulatory services division or
12 its designee that the range operator has made sufficient and appropriate modifications to the
13 design or operation of the facility to reasonably address the specific deficiencies found to
14 have contributed to the injury or endangerment.

15 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. There is added a new section to K.C.C. 6.84. to
16 read as follows:

17 Complaint Process. A. Upon receiving a written complaint involving the operation or
18 activities of any shooting sports facility, the manager of the licensing and regulatory services
19 division shall cause the following to be performed:

20 1. Issue a Notice of Complaint to the shooting sports facility operator advising such
21 person of the allegation(s) made in the complaint;

22 2. Request the shooting sports facility operator to respond, in writing, to the
23 allegation(s) in the Notice of Complaint within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Notice of
24 Complaint;

25 3. Investigate the allegation(s) in the written complaint and the response submitted by
26 the shooting sports facility operator;

27 4. Make a finding as to the validity of the allegation(s) in the written complaint. If it is
28 found that a violation of any of the shooting sports facility safety standards has occurred,
29 issue a Notice and Order pursuant to the process described in K.C.C. 6.01.130.

1 B. Failure to comply with the Notice and Order issued as a result of the above process
2 will result in the suspension and/or revocation of the license involved. Such
3 suspension/revocation will last one year from the date the license is surrendered.

4 C. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit authority to issue a Notice and
5 Order or take such enforcement or investigative actions deemed appropriate to protect the
6 public's health and safety.

7 SECTION 6. Ordinance 11177, Section 8, and K.C.C. 6.84.060 are hereby amended
8 to read as follows:

9 License fee. A license fee of fifty dollars shall be charged for review and processing
10 of the license application. ~~((The department of public safety and department of development
11 and environmental services may charge additional fees not to exceed five times the license
12 fee, to cover the cost of review as necessary.))~~

13 SECTION 7. Ordinance 11177, Section 9, and K.C.C. 6.84.070 are hereby amended to
14 read as follows:

15 License renewal. The operating license shall be reviewed and renewed every five
16 years. ~~((Expansions of the level or type of shooting activity authorized by the license shall
17 require review and issuance of a new license whenever such expansion occurs.))~~ New
18 shooting ~~((activities))~~ types shall not be permitted until authorized by a new license.
19 Applications for license renewal shall be made in writing on forms prescribed by the
20 manager of the licensing and regulatory services division at least thirty days prior to the
21 expiration of the existing license.

22 SECTION 8. Ordinance 11177, Section 10, and K.C.C. 6.84.080 are hereby
23 amended to read as follows:

24 Safety standards and specifications. All shooting ~~((ranges))~~ sports facilities licensed
25 pursuant to this chapter shall comply with the following safety standards and specifications:

26 A. All structures, installations, operations, and activities shall be located at such a
27 distance from property lines as will protect ~~((adjoining))~~ off-site properties from hazard,
28 when the ranges are used in accordance with range safety rules and ~~((standards))~~ practices.

1 ~~((B. Overhead baffles (or other constructs/devices), shall be installed at all stationary~~
2 ~~shooting positions to prevent errant rounds from escaping pistol and rifle ranges when such~~
3 ~~ranges are used in accordance with range safety rules and standards.))~~

4 ~~((C.))~~ B. Range site design features and safety procedures shall be installed and
5 maintained to discourage errant rounds from escaping all shooting positions, when such
6 positions are used in accordance with range safety rules and ~~((standards))~~ practices.

7 ~~((D.))~~ C. A plan shall be submitted with the license application which shows the
8 location of all buildings, parking areas and access points; safety features of the firing range;
9 elevations of the range showing target area, backdrops or butts; and approximate location of
10 buildings on adjoining properties.

11 ~~((E.))~~ D. A safety plan shall be submitted which cites rules for each range, sign-in
12 procedures, and restrictions on activities in the use of ranges, and every safety plan shall
13 prohibit loaded ~~((weapons))~~ firearms except as provided by the range safety specifications
14 and operating procedures ~~((at shooting positions and except for holstered handguns)).~~

15 ~~((F.))~~ E. All shooting ~~((ranges))~~ sports facilities shall have a designated range
16 master. A range master must be present whenever the shooting sports facility is open to the
17 public and may oversee as many as three ~~((ranges))~~ simultaneous public events within a
18 shooting sports facility.

19 ~~((G.))~~ F. Where urban residentially zoned property or residential streets are located
20 adjacent to property containing an outdoor shooting ~~((range))~~ sports facility, warning signs
21 shall be installed and maintained along the shooting ~~((range))~~ sports facility property line.

22 ~~((H.))~~ G. Shooting ~~((ranges))~~ sports facilities shall be used for the shooting activities
23 they were designed to accommodate unless redesigned to ~~((safety))~~ safely accommodate
24 new shooting activities.

25 ~~((I.))~~ H. The range ~~((master))~~ operator shall report in writing to the manager of the
26 licensing and regulatory services division all ~~((accidents))~~ on-site and off-site gunshot
27 wounds resulting from ~~((the discharge of firearms in use on the range))~~ activity at the
28 shooting sports facility.

29 ~~((J.))~~ I. All shooting ~~((ranges))~~ sports facilities shall provide a telephone available to
30 range participants and spectators for the purpose of contacting emergency medical services.

1 ((K-)) J. A first-aid kit approved by the manager of the licensing and regulatory
2 services division shall be readily available ((on the range premises)) at each shooting sports
3 facility for emergency treatment or care of minor injuries.

4 SECTION 9. Ordinance 11563, Section 4, and K.C.C. 6.84.085 are hereby amended
5 to read as follows:

6 Liability. The express intent of the King County council is that responsibility for
7 complete and accurate preparation of applications, plans and specifications for compliance
8 with applicable laws, including but not limited to those set forth in this chapter, and for safe
9 design, construction, use and operation of facilities regulated herein shall rest exclusively
10 with applicants and their agents.

11 This chapter and the codes adopted herein are intended to protect the health, safety
12 and welfare of the general public and are not intended to protect any particular class of
13 individuals or organizations.

14 This chapter shall not be construed as placing responsibility for code compliance or
15 enforcement upon King County or any officer, employee or agent of King County.
16 Application review and inspections conducted pursuant to this chapter are intended to foster
17 and encourage compliance, but are not guarantees or assurances either that any design,
18 construction, use or operation complies with applicable laws or that the facility is safely
19 designed, constructed, used or operated.

20 Nothing in this chapter is intended to create any private right of action based upon non-
21 compliance with any of the requirements of this chapter.

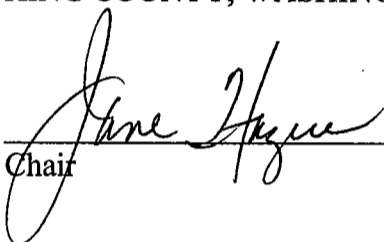
1 SECTION 10. Ordinance 11177, Section 11, and K.C.C. 6.84.090 are hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Appeals. ~~((The provisions of this chapter may be appealed))~~ Any person aggrieved by
4 a decision in a Notice and Order issued pursuant to King County Code 6.01.130 or by a
5 license suspension or revocation issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, may file
6 an appeal pursuant to King County Code 6.01.150.

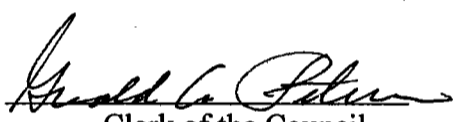
7 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 4th day of
8 November, 1996.

9 PASSED by a vote of 11 to 0 this 9th day of December,
10 1996.

11 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
12 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

13 
14 Chair

15 ATTEST:

16 
17 Clerk of the Council

18 APPROVED this 20th day of December, 1996

19 
20 Pete
 King County Executive

21 Attachments: