

# Ordinance No. 1226

**AN ORDINANCE to amend Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, by amending and reordaining Section 12-43 thereof and adding thereto new Sections Numbered 12-45.1, 12-45.2, 12-45.3, 12-45.4, 12-45.5, 12-45.6, 12-45.7, 12-45.8, 12-45.9 and 12-45.10; which Chapter 12 relates to FIRE PREVENTION, which Article III relates to PYROTECHNICS AND SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION, which Section 12-43 relates to DEFINITION OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION, which new Section Numbered 12-45.1 relates to SPRINKLERS, which new Section Numbered 12-45.2 relates to WATCHMEN AND ALARM SYSTEMS, which new Section 12-45.3 relates to NOTICE OF SHIPMENTS, which new Section 12-45.4 relates to STORAGE LIMIT, which new Section 12-45.5 relates to MONTHLY INSPECTION, which new Section 12-45.6 relates to INSURANCE, which new Section 12-45.7 relates to SUPERVISION, which new Section 12-45.8 relates to STORAGE SPACE LIMIT, which new Section 12-45.9 relates to STORAGE OR REBULLETING NEXT TO RESIDENCE PROHIBITED, and which new Section 12-45.10 relates to TRAINING.**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 12-43, Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-43. Small arms ammunition—definition.**

Small arms ammunition whenever used in this chapter shall be held to mean the following:

Fixed ammunition consisting of a metallic plastic composition, or paper cartridge case, a primer, and a propelling charge, with or without bullet, shot, tear gas material, tracer components, or incendiary composition or mixtures, but not including bullets loaded with high explosives, and is further limited to the following:

- (a) Ammunition designed to be fired from a pistol, revolver, rifle, or shot gun held by the hand or to the shoulder.
- (b) Ammunition of caliber less than .70 inch designed to be fired from machine guns.
- (c) Blank cartridges including canopy remover cartridges, starter cartridges, and seat ejector cartridges, containing not more than 500 grains of propellant powder, provided that such cartridges shall be incapable of functioning en masse as a result of any single cartridge in the container or as a result of exposure to external flame.

Section 2. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.1 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.1. Sprinklers.**

Any person or firm stocking small arms ammunition containing in excess of 2500 pounds of explosive material shall provide a sprinkling system, approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau, on the premises

where the ammunition is stored. Persons and firms storing ammunition in the City, containing in excess of 2500 pounds of explosive material at the time of the passage of this section, shall be allowed three (3) years from that date in which to comply with this section.

Section 3. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.2 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.2. Watchmen and alarm systems.**

Night watchmen or automatic burglar alarms and rate of rise fire alarms approved by the Fire Prevention Bureau shall be required for all buildings in which small arms ammunition containing in excess of 2500 pounds of explosive material is stored.

Section 4. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.3 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.3. Notice of shipments.**

Notice of receipt of shipment of all small arms ammunition in quantities containing in excess of 2500 pounds of explosive material shall be given the Police Department and the Fire Prevention Bureau at least two (2) hours in advance of unloading. Said notice shall include information as to quantity, size, age and source.

Section 5. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.4 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.4. Storage limit.**

No small arms ammunition exceeding the caliber or standards contained in Section 12-43 of Article III, Chapter 12, shall be stored within the City.

Section 6. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.5 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.5. Monthly inspections.**

Personnel of the Fire Prevention Bureau shall each month inspect each establishment stocking small arms ammunition containing in excess of 2500 pounds of explosive material.

Section 7. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.6 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.6. Insurance.**

All persons stocking small arms ammunition containing in excess of 2500 pounds of explosive material shall carry liability insurance protecting adjacent property, in an amount of at least \$1,000,000.00.

Evidence of such insurance shall be filed with the City Clerk and no City license or permit in connection with such ammunition shall be issued until the insurance requirement is first satisfied.

Section 8. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45-7 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.7. Supervision.**

Personnel of the Fire Prevention Bureau shall supervise the receipt of shipment of small arms ammunition containing more than 2500 pounds of explosive material.

Section 9. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.8 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.8. Storage space limit and general requirements.**

Small arms ammunition stored shall not cover more than 25 percent of the total floor area of the firm or person storing the ammunition. It shall also be stored in a manner conforming to commonly accepted safety practices for such ammunition.

Section 10. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.9 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.9. Storage or rebulleting next to residence or public gathering places prohibited.**

Small arms ammunition containing in excess of 2500 pounds of explosive material shall not be stored or rebulleted in any structure that immediately adjoins any residence, church, school, or other similar public gathering places.

Section 11. That Article III, Chapter 12 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1953, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new Section Numbered 12-45.10 to read as follows:

**Sec. 12-45.10. Training.**

Any employee handling small arms ammunition shall first be trained in the safe handling of such ammunition.

Section 12. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City not later than five days following its introduction, together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The Clerk of the Council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

FRANK E. MANN  
Mayor

Final Passage: July 23, 1963