

ORDINANCE NO. 1629

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING THE TRANSFER OF FIREARMS, POCKETKNIVES, DAGGERS OR DIRKS WITHIN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

WHEREAS, during the past week there have been disturbances, disorders, shootings, fires, and injury to persons and property in the City of Alexandria, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the city council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia is of the opinion that an emergency exists and every reasonable effort should be made to stop the above mentioned occurrences in order to protect and preserve the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the council is of the opinion that a temporary prohibition of the transfer of firearms, pocketknives, daggers or dirks with blades longer than two inches within the city would be helpful in stopping the above mentioned occurrences and also helpful in preventing matters from getting out of control; therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. State of emergency.

That a state of emergency be and the same hereby is declared to exist within the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Section 2. Transfer of firearms, pocketknives, daggers or dirks with blades longer than two inches prohibited.

That for the duration of said state of emergency it shall be unlawful within the City of Alexandria, Virginia for any person to sell, offer for sale, give, lease, loan, purchase, receive or otherwise transfer or acquire any firearm, pocketknife, dagger or dirk with blades longer than two inches.

Section 3. Definition of firearm.

The term "firearm" used in this ordinance means any device, or part of a device, by whatever name known, which is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive, expansion of gas or air, or escape of gas or air, including but not limited to rifles, pistols, revolvers, guns, shotguns or machine guns, excluding however:

1. Any device used exclusively for the firing of stud cartridges, explosive rivets or similar industrial ammunition; or
2. Any device which expels a projectile by the action of a spring; or
3. Any device used exclusively for signaling or safety and required or recommended by the United States Coast Guard, the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Aviation Agency or any other appropriate state or federal agency governing marine, air or highway safety.

Section 4. Exceptions.

The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to:

1. Members of the Armed Forces or the National Guard and other employees of the Federal Government, the State and their political subdivisions who are required to carry firearms, pocketknives, daggers or dirks with blades longer than two inches, as a part of their official duties and who are engaged in the performance of their official duties.
2. Conservators of the peace appointed by a Judge of the Corporation Court of the City of Alexandria, Virginia and who are engaged in the performance of their official duties.
3. Interstate or intrastate shipments of firearms between Federally licensed dealers, in accordance with the Federal Gun Control Act of 1968.

Section 5. Penalties.

Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or by imprisonment in jail for not more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 6. Emergency ordinance.

That this ordinance be and the same hereby is declared an EMERGENCY ORDINANCE for the reasons stated above.

Section 7. Effective date of ordinance.

That this ordinance shall not be published. The clerk of the council shall note the date of introduction and first reading and the date and time of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. The clerk and the city manager shall attempt to give this ordinance the widest reasonably possible coverage by all news media. This ordinance shall become effective the moment of its passage, and shall continue in full force and effect until the state of emergency set forth in section 1 of this ordinance has been ended by the joint order of both the chief of police and the city manager or by the vote of four members of the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Any such order shall be given wide publicity.

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.

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First Reading: 6-3-70
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