

Ordinance No. 491

AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 31 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, enacted as a whole July 2, 1940, and made effective August 5, 1940, by adding a Section numbered 31-A, regulating the sale and possession of pistols and revolvers, empowering the Chief of Police to issue or refuse permits to dealers, and imposing penalties.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Chapter 31 of the Code of Alexandria, Virginia, enacted as a whole July 2, 1940, and made effective August 5 1940, be and the same hereby is amended by adding Section 31-A, following Section 31, to read as follows:

Sec. 31-A. Same—Pistols and revolvers; permits to dealers, etc.

Every person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of selling or dealing in pistols and/or revolvers in the City of Alexandria at retail shall before making any such sale or other disposition apply for and receive from the Chief of Police of Alexandria a permit to deal in such weapons. This permit shall be in addition to the revenue license required by Section 194 of the Tax Code of Virginia and of any city revenue license. The application for such permit shall give the real name of the applicant, or applicants if a firm, and of the officers and manager if a corporation, and also the trade name if any and the place of business. The Chief of Police shall issue such permit upon being satisfied, after investigation, that the applicant is a fit and proper person or persons, or in case of a corporation, the officers and manager are fit and proper persons, to engage in such business; otherwise he shall refuse such permit. Such permits shall be issued for a period not to exceed one year, and a charge therefor of \$6.00 shall be made.

Every dealer obtaining a permit under the provisions of this section shall carry on the business covered by the permit only in the building designated in the permit. No pistol, revolver or imitation thereof or placard advertising the sale thereof shall be displayed in any part of the premises so it can readily be seen from the outside. Every permit issued under authority of this section shall be displayed on the premises where it can be easily read. A true record shall be made with ink in a book kept for the purpose by every dealer in pistols and/or revolvers of purchases, which record shall contain the date of purchase, the caliber, make, model and manufacturer's number of the weapon. Every pistol or revolver sold or otherwise disposed of by a dealer shall be securely wrapped and unloaded when delivered.

Every person desiring to purchase or otherwise acquire in the City of Alexandria pistol or revolver shall sign in duplicate and deliver to the seller or person disposing thereof a statement containing his full name, address, occupation, color, place and date of birth, height and weight, some descriptive mark of identi-

fiction, the date and hour of application, the caliber, make, model and manufacturer's number of the weapon to be acquired and a statement that he has never been convicted of a crime of violence. The seller or person disposing of such weapon shall within six hours after such application, sign and attach his address and deliver one copy of the application to the Chief of Police and he shall retain the other copy for five years. Forms for such applications shall be furnished by the Chief of Police at the expense of the city. It shall be unlawful for any person to give false information or offer false evidence of his identity in making such application or in acquiring a pistol or revolver. No person shall within the City of Alexandria deliver or otherwise dispose of a pistol or revolver until seventy-two hours shall have elapsed from the time of the application aforesaid. No person shall within the city sell or otherwise dispose of a pistol or revolver to a person whom he has reasonable cause to believe is not a fit and proper person to possess the same, is not of sound mind, is under the age of eighteen years, is a drug addict, or is a person who has been convicted of a crime of violence in the State of Virginia or elsewhere. If, within the seventy-two hour waiting period required by this section, the Chief of Police or anyone designated by him shall inform the proposed seller or person proposing to dispose of a pistol or revolver that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to possess the weapon, is not of sound mind, is under the age of eighteen years, is a drug addict, or is a person who has been convicted of a crime of violence, such information shall be prima facie evidence that the seller or person disposing thereof had reasonable cause to believe the applicant is so unqualified to acquire such weapon or weapons.

In addition to the record of purchases required of dealers by this section, and in addition to the written application required by all persons delivering or otherwise disposing of pistols or revolvers to be received, every person so delivering or disposing of such weapons shall make in duplicate a true record of every such weapon sold or otherwise disposed of, which record shall be personally signed by the purchaser or person receiving the weapon and also by the person making the sale or disposition in the presence of each other. This record shall be in such form and shall contain such information as the Chief of Police may prescribe, the forms to be furnished at the expense of the city, and one copy thereof shall be forwarded, within seven days after sale or disposition, to the Chief of Police.

The permit of any person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of selling or dealing in pistols or revolvers in the city shall be revoked by a committee to be composed of the City Manager, the Mayor of Alexandria, a member of Council to be named by the Mayor, and the Chief of Police, after notice and opportunity to be heard, for violation of any provision of this section or because after discovered or new facts deemed sufficient to such committee to make the holder of the permit an unfit and improper person to engage in such business.

This section shall not apply to toy pistols or revolvers.

A crime of violence, as used in this section, means murder, manslaughter, rape, mayhem, maliciously disfiguring another, abduction, kidnaping, burglary, housebreaking, robbery, larceny, assault with intent to kill, commit rape or robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault with intent to commit any offense punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary, or an attempt to commit any of such crimes.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this section or who fails to comply with the requirements hereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$300.00 or by imprisonment for not more than three months, either or both, in the discretion of the jury or court trying the same.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective April 1st, 1947.

William T. Wilkins
Mayor

February 18, 1947.