



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Mayor's Press Office  
(312) 744-3334  
[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

Law Department  
Jenny Hoyle  
(312) 744-1575

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE ALLOWING SHOOTING RANGES IN  
CHICAGO**

The City Council today approved an ordinance that creates a comprehensive licensing and regulatory framework that allows for shooting ranges to be located in the City of Chicago.

“Swift and decisive action from the City Council was essential to preserve the gun control and safety elements of the ordinance,” said Mayor Emanuel. “The action taken by the Council today ensured that the gun ranges in Chicago will be regulated as part of a thoughtful plan that is focused on the safety of all Chicagoans.”

The City's Responsible Gun Ownership Ordinance, which was passed in July of 2010, banned shooting ranges in the City of Chicago. At the time, no shooting ranges were located in the City and there was no regulatory or licensing framework addressing shooting ranges. Shortly after the passage of the Responsible Gun Ownership Ordinance, two lawsuits were filed in federal court challenging the constitutionality of the ban.

Today, as the Council approved the ordinance that allows for shooting ranges to be located in Chicago, the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals at virtually the same time issued a ruling in one of the pending cases against the city. The 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit ordered the district court to issue a preliminary injunction against the prohibition on gun ranges. The City's attorneys are conducting a thorough legal review of the decision made by the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit, and will provide recommendations for how the City will proceed relative to this court case.

Today's ordinance in City Council protects residents of Chicago in a number of ways. It ensures that there is no enforcement gap between the time the existing ban is unenforceable and the new ordinance is enacted. It additionally lays out a licensing and regulatory framework for the gun ranges. Further, the ordinance ensures that the shooting ranges are enclosed and located at a safe distance from residential districts, parks, schools, day care centers, and churches. These frameworks allow the City to comply with the law while maintaining its focus on the safety and security of the general public.

Specifically, the ordinance addresses:

Licensing:

- The ordinance creates a new business license for shooting range facilities.
- Shooting ranges can only be located in completely enclosed buildings.
- Mobile shooting ranges and open air shooting ranges are prohibited.
- Licensees must be at least 21 years of age and possess a valid Chicago Firearm Permit, Illinois FOID card and any necessary federal firearms licenses.
- Licensees must also maintain liability insurance in the aggregate amount of \$1 million.

Zoning:

- Gun ranges can only be located in districts zoned for manufacturing, and they will be considered "special uses" in these districts.
- Special uses require a hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals during which community input can be considered.
- Within manufacturing districts, shooting ranges cannot be located within 1,000 feet of the following: another shooting range facility; a district zoned for residential use; any school, day-care facility, park, place of worship, children's activities facility, library, museum and hospital; and any establishment licensed for the retail sale of liquor.

Health and Safety:

- Every application for a shooting range license must be accompanied by a safety plan approved by the Police Superintendent.

- The safety plan must include exterior lighting; interior and exterior surveillance cameras; an alarm system; protocols for the safe display and storage of firearms and ammunition; and adequately trained personnel and range masters.
- The ordinance also includes changes to the environmental, building and fire codes to address concerns specific to firing ranges, such as air quality, noise pollution, building structure and storage of flammable materials.

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