



Town of Waco



Town of Waco Discharging Firearms Within the Town Limits

WHEREAS, the control the persons discharging firearms within the town limits is a matter concerning the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Waco, and

WHEREAS, the Aldermen of the Town of Waco are authorized by Chapter 160A-189 of the General Statutes of North Carolina to control matters concerning the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town of Waco,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF WACO, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:

This Discharging of Firearms Ordinance in the Town Limits of Waco is enacted pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 160A-189 and applied within the corporate limits of the Town of Waco.

Section 500.0 Discharging Firearms

1. It shall be unlawful for any person to shoot or explode any gun, pistol or other similar weapons in the town, on the streets, on any church grounds, park, playground or town property or in any residential section of the town except when used in lawful defense of one's home, person, family or property or pursuant to lawful directions of law enforcement officers.
2. Discharging of a firearm, as specified by the exceptions listed, is limited to persons 18 years or older unless accompanied by an adult defined as 18 years or older.
3. Discharging a firearm from thirty minutes before sunset or thirty minutes after sunrise is prohibited except when the firearm is being used to control a rodent or other invasive animal population.
4. Anyone discharging a firearm is expected to prioritize safety and take all necessary precautions to prevent injury to themselves, others and property and is expected to ensure they have a safe backstop and are aware of their surroundings.

Section 500.1 Exceptions

- (a) Sworn law enforcement officers and enlisted personnel for the armed forces of the United States when in discharge of their official duties as such and acting under orders requiring them to carry arms and weapons.
- (b) Civil officers of the United States while in the discharge of their official duties.
- (c) County Animal Control officers in the discharge of their duties.
- (d) Persons possessing a written permit from the mayor to possess and fire weapons for ceremonial purposes.
- (e) Persons engaged in the legal hunting of wild game or fowl or for pest or rodent control on land which is zoned agricultural by the Cleveland County Tax Department.

Section 500.2 Violations

1. The unlawful discharge of a firearm in the corporate limits of the Town of Waco will result in the issuance of a written warning by the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department. Repeat offences can elevate the severity of the charges and result in harsher penalties.

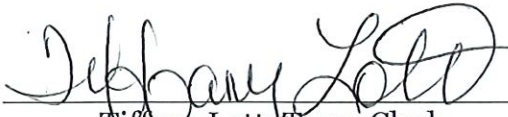
The ordinance is adopted by a vote of the Town of Waco Board of Aldermen and becomes effective on the 18th day of August 2025.


John Barrett, Mayor

(Municipal Seal)



Attest:


Tiffany Lott, Town Clerk