

8-A

MOTION:

**April 18, 2006
Regular Meeting
Ord. No. 06-**

SECOND:

**RE: AUTHORIZE A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AMENDING
CHAPTER 31 OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY CODE TO
ALLOW HUNTING WITH RIFLED SLUGS INSTEAD OF BUCKSHOT**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors pursuant to both general and specific authority granted by the Code of Virginia, has enacted certain provisions of Chapter 31 (Weapons) of the Prince William County Code to regulate outdoor shooting of firearms; and

WHEREAS, Section 31-22 of the Prince William County Code does not allow the use of slugs for hunting; and

WHEREAS, the Weapons Control Board Committee and the Prince William County Police Department believe use of slugs for hunting game will make conditions safer for hunters and be more humane for game animals; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors to conduct a public hearing for the purpose of considering an amendment to Section 31-22 that would permit the use of slugs for hunting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby determine that it shall conduct a public hearing, to be scheduled by the Clerk to the Board, to consider amending Chapter 31 – Weapons – of the Prince William County Code, as shown on the attachment to this Resolution. The Clerk is further directed to make copies of the proposed amendment available to the public upon request;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Board properly advertise notice of the public hearing for the stated purpose in a newspaper of general circulation in Prince William County.

April 18, 2006
Regular Meeting
Ord. No. 06-
Page Two

ATTACHMENT: Article II. Firearms Control

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

Commonwealth's Attorney

County Attorney

Chief of Police

Chapter 31

WEAPONS

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ARTICLE II. FIREARMS CONTROL

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Sec. 31-22. Limitation on firearms used for hunting; exemption for muzzle-loading weapons used during prescribed season.

It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt any game or fowl anywhere within the county using any rifle or caliber larger than twenty-two hundredths (0.22), or any shotgun loaded with ~~slugs~~ buckshot; however, the use of muzzle-loading rifles for the hunting of game species is permissible only during the prescribed open seasons. Hunting with muzzleloaders requires a separate license, which shall be in addition to the license required to hunt small game. (No. 81-28-34, 10-6-81, § 19A-5; No. 91-52A, 5-7-91; Ord. No. 92-61, 6-23-92)



Craig S. Gerhart
County Executive

COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

1 County Complex Court, Prince William, Virginia 22192-9201
(703) 792-6600 Metro 631-1703 FAX: (703) 792-7484

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April 3, 2006

TO: Board of County Supervisors

FROM: Charlie T. Deane
Chief of Police

THRU: Craig S. Gerhart
County Executive

RE: Amend Chapter 31 of the Prince William County Code to Allow Hunting
with Rifled Slugs Instead of Buckshot

I. Background in chronological order is as follows:

- A. Liaison – The Police Department's Eastern District Commander acts as a liaison between the Weapons Control Board Committee and the Board of County Supervisors.
- B. Request for Change to County Code – The State Game Warden approached the Weapons Control Committee Board to solicit help in changing the County Code to allow the use of rifled slugs for hunting.

II. Current Situation is as follows:

- A. Present Code – Section 31-22 of the Prince William County Code allows hunting with buckshot, but not rifled slugs. The State Game Warden and the Prince William County Weapons Control Committee believe hunting with slugs instead of buckshot would make conditions safer for hunters, and be more humane for game animals.
- B. Neighboring Jurisdictions – Hunting with rifled slugs would bring Prince William County in line with neighboring jurisdictions. The Police Department agrees with the request to change this ordinance.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



- C. Public Hearing – The Board of County Supervisors authorized a Public Hearing for consideration of this amendment on March 21, 2006.
- D. Board Action Requested – The Prince William Board of County Supervisors is requested to amend Chapter 31-22 of the Prince William County Code to allow the use of rifled slugs.

III. Issues in order of importance are:

- A. Timing – Is this time sensitive?
- B. Service Level/Policy Impact – What is the impact to the community if changed?
- C. Fiscal Impact – Is there any fiscal impact to the county?
- D. Legal – Are there any legal issues involved in this change?

IV. Alternatives in order of feasibility are:

- A. Amend Chapter 31 of the Prince William County Code to allow hunting with rifled slugs instead of buckshot.
 - 1. Timing – Notice of this change, if amended by the Board, should be submitted to the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries by registered mail prior to May 1, 2006, in order to become effective in the 2006 prescribed hunting season.
 - 2. Service Level/Policy Impact – Changing this ordinance will increase personal safety and reduce the threat of property damage.
 - 3. Fiscal Impact – Existing resources will continue to support a change in this ordinance.
 - 4. Legal – Section 15.2-1209 of the Virginia Code allows the County to regulate the outdoor shooting of firearms. Section 29.1-528, VA Code Ann., requires the Board of County Supervisors to notify the Director of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries of any change to the County's ordinance by May 1 of the year in which the ordinance is to take effect.

B. Take no Action

1. Timing – None.
2. Service Level/Policy Impact – This may lead to an increase in personal injury and an increase in property damage.
3. Fiscal Impact – None.
4. Legal – None.

V. Recommendation is that the Board of County Supervisors concur with Alternative A and approve the attached Resolution.

Staff contact: Captain Timothy A. Rudy, 792-7203