

**AMENDED ORDINANCE WHICH PROHIBITS THE  
POSSESSION OF FIREARMS IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS WITHIN  
THE CITY OF CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI**

WHEREAS, the governing authorities of the City of Cleveland, Mississippi, have the obligation to make all needful ordinances necessary for the preservation of the public health and welfare of the City; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Alderman and Mayor are desirous of addressing House Bill 314 effective July 1, 2014 which specifically authorizes municipalities to regulate the carrying of a firearm in the following locations:

- (i) public parks
- (ii) public meetings of the municipality
- (iii) a political rally, parade or official political meeting
- (iv) a nonfirearm-related school, college or professional athletic event

House Bill 314 allows a municipality to post written notice of its prohibition of firearms in the above referenced locations as provided in Miss. Code Ann §45-9-101 (13) ; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as “An Amended Ordinance which Prohibits the Possession of Firearms in Certain Locations Within the City of Cleveland, Mississippi” and is being made to address concerns of safety issues that may arise if firearms could be carried, concealed or openly, in certain public buildings and on other property owned by the City given the following particular circumstances: the sensitive nature of City business, public meetings and political events and the fact that the City buildings are open to the general public and political events may be attended by the general public and all these events may be contentious in nature. For parks and sporting events, the presence of children mandates that regulation of the carrying of firearms, concealed or openly, be had.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alderman and Mayor of the City of Cleveland, Mississippi, as follows to-wit:

SECTION I: That the Board of Alderman and Mayor of the City of Cleveland, Mississippi shall adopt an Ordinance which prohibits the possession of firearms, either concealed or openly, in the City of Cleveland, Mississippi in the following locations:

- (i) public parks
- (ii) public meetings of the municipality
- (iii) a political rally, parade or official political meeting
- (iv) a nonfirearm-related school, college or professional athletic event

SECTION II: DEFINITIONS.

The following definitions shall apply to this Ordinance:

- (a) "Firearm" means any weapon which will or is designed to expel any projectile by the action of an explosive.

SECTION III: PROHIBITION AGAINST POSSESSION OF A  
FIREARM IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any individual knowingly to possess a firearm while in or about the following locations in the City of Cleveland:
  - (i) public parks
  - (ii) at public meetings of the municipality, the county or other governmental body
  - (iii) at a political rally, parade or official political meeting
  - (iv) at a nonfirearm-related school, college or professional athletic event
- (b) This provision shall not apply to weapons in the possession of appointed, qualified and serving law enforcement.

SECTION IV: PENALTIES.

Any person violating the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in an amount not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or be imprisoned for a period not exceeding ninety days, or both so fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the court.

SECTION V: FIREARMS PROHIBITED.

The City Manager and/or any Department Heads are authorized and directed to cause to be posted signs conspicuously at each public entrance to each building or facility under the control of the municipality where public meetings are had by the municipality or other governmental body, advising the public that firearms are prohibited there during public meetings of the municipality and other governmental bodies. Signs stating firearms are prohibited should also be placed conspicuously at public parks under the municipalities' control.

SECTION VI: That the immediate and temporary, as well as the permanent, health, safety, finances and public necessity and convenience requiring it, this ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after June 2, 2014.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, first as to sections, then as a whole at the , regular meeting of the Board of Alderman and Mayor of said City by the following vote:

Alderman Maurice Smith voted " "  
Alderman Robert Sanders voted " "  
Alderman Danny Abraham voted " "

Alderman Kirkham Povall voted “ ”  
Alderman J. Paul Janoush voted “ ”  
Alderman Theodore R. “Ted” Campbell voted “ ”  
Alderman Gary Gainspoletti voted “ ”

APPROVED: /s/ Billy Nowell  
Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ John Lindsey  
City Clerk