



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2015

Public Information Office

Contact: Sally Shutt, Public Information Director

Telephone: 910-437-1921

E-mail: sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us

Open Carry of Firearms Prohibited on County Property

FAYETTEVILLE – The Board of Commissioners on Monday approved a revision to Sec. 9.5-101 of the Cumberland County Code that prohibits openly carrying weapons on County government property.

The county ordinance previously only prohibited concealed handguns on County property; it now bans open carry handguns as well. County parks are not included in the ordinance, in accordance with state statute.

Assistant County Attorney Rob Hasty cited two state statutes that apply to the “open carry” of firearms. N.C. statute 153A-129 allows a county, by ordinance, to regulate the display of firearms on public property; and N.C. Statute 14-409.40(f) allows a county to prohibit the possession of firearms in public-owned buildings, their grounds, and parking areas, with the exception that firearms may be stored in vehicles while on the property.

State statutes also give counties the authority to post prohibitions against carrying a concealed handgun on local government properties, including recreational facilities. The term “recreational facilities” includes athletic fields, swimming pools and athletic event facilities; however, the term does not include parks, greenways or biking and walking paths, Hasty said.

The revised ordinance reads:

Sec. 9.5-101 – Weapon posting.

- (a) *Posting of signs required.* The county manager is hereby ordered to post appropriate signage of each recreational facility, building or portion of a building now or hereafter owned, leased or as lessee, operated, occupied, managed or controlled by Cumberland County, as well as the appurtenant premises to such buildings, indicating that weapons, including concealed handguns and open carry handguns are prohibited therein.

Violators could face up to a \$500 fine for the class 3 misdemeanor offense.

The County reviewed its ordinance and sought clarification from the commissioners after a citizen questioned signage at the public library banning weapons at the facility.

-end-