

To: Heidi

TO BE HEARD
JULY 13

Williamson
County, TN

DATE 6/29/09
ENTERED 11:30 a.m.
C.S. ANDERSON, COUNTY CLERK

Resolution No. 7-09-2
Requested by Commissioner Mary Brockman

A RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT HANDGUNS IN COUNTY PARKS, NATURAL AREAS, HISTORIC PARKS, NATURE TRAILS, GREENWAYS, WATERWAYS AND OTHER SIMILAR PUBLIC PLACES

WHEREAS, prior to September 1, 2009, *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 39-17-1311, made carrying weapons in County owned parks, playgrounds, civic centers, or other building facilities a Class A misdemeanor; and

WHEREAS, Public Chapter 428 of the 2009 Public Acts of the 106th General Assembly, as adopted, removed the above-mentioned prohibitions on handguns in public parks; and

WHEREAS, This Act of the 106th General Assembly permits county governments to prohibit, by resolution, the carrying of handguns while within a public park or other recreational area that is owned or operated by a county; and

WHEREAS, The changes effected by Public Chapter 428, if the County does not act to opt out of its provisions, could result in inconsistent application of the law due to the various statutes governing handguns on school property, within recreational facilities and on playgrounds, and otherwise; thus potentially creating confusion among citizens and causing difficulty in enforcement; and

WHEREAS, The County Legislative body of Williamson County is committed to preservation of 2nd Amendment rights, but desires to continue prohibiting the carrying of handguns in county parks, natural areas, historic parks, nature trails, greenways, waterways, and other similar public places owned or operated by the county due to the use of these areas by large numbers of children and the safety issues created; and due to the burden placed upon our law enforcement officers in attempting to consistently apply this Public Chapter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session, this the 13th day of July, 2009, that any person authorized to carry a handgun under *Tennessee Code Annotated*, § 39-17-1351, is prohibited from possessing any handgun while within a public park, wildlife management area, natural area, historic park, nature trail, greenway, waterway, or other similar public place that is owned or operated by the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County shall display signs in prominent locations about the public recreational properties, at least six inches (6") high and fourteen inches (14") wide, stating:

MISDEMEANOR. STATE LAW PRESCRIBES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF ELEVEN (11) MONTHS AND TWENTY-NINE (29) DAYS AND A FINE NOT TO EXCEED TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) FOR CARRYING WEAPONS ON OR IN THIS PUBLIC RECREATIONAL PROPERTY.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution takes effect as of the 1st day of September, 2009, the welfare of the County requiring it.

Mary Brockman
County Commissioner

Justin J. Hays
County Commissioner

COMMITTEES REFERRED TO & ACTION TAKEN:

Property Committee	For _____ Against _____
Parks & Recreation Committee	For _____ Against _____
Law Enforcement Committee	For _____ Against _____
Commission Action Taken:	For _____ Against _____ Pass _____ Out _____

Elaine Anderson, County Clerk

Houston Naron, Jr. - Commission Chairman

Rogers C. Anderson - County Mayor

Date: _____