

ORDINANCE # 24. 2023

PASSED 9-14-23

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING THE CONVEYANCE ONTO VILLAGE PROPERTY OF WEAPONS, ESTABLISHING THE RIGHT TO CARRY FIREARMS ONTO VILLAGE PROPERTY, REPEALING ALL PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, the Village of Rushville is charged with the adoption and orderly execution of policies and procedures necessary for the general welfare of the community;

WHEREAS, the citizenry of the community must, in order to fully participate in government meetings and the democratic process and engage in the free and open expression of concerns, feel safe and secure and free from intimidation;

WHEREAS, the officers, officials, and employees must also feel safe and secure and free from intimidation when executing their statutory duties;

WHEREAS, Village Council is deeply concerned about the proliferation of deadly weapons and deadly use of force in our public spaces, especially in this moment when political violence and intimidation towards public officials is on the rise,

WHEREAS, Village Council finds that the use of deadly force may be the only effective deterrent to violence within or upon Village property;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF RUSHVILLE, FAIRFIELD COUNTY, STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** No person, unless an officer, agent or employee of the state of Ohio or the United States, or a law enforcement officer, who is authorized to carry a firearm or ordinance, and is acting within the scope of his or her official duties, shall knowingly possess, have under his or her control, convey, or attempt to convey an air-gun, firearm, dangerous ordinance, or other deadly weapon onto or into any Village facility, including, but not limited to, the village offices, garage and maintenance areas, and wastewater treatment plant.

**Section 2.** Village officers, including council members, and employees may, unless otherwise prohibited by state or federal law, carry a concealed firearm on his or her person, while on Village property and within Village facilities.

**Section 3.** The Village shall post in one or more conspicuous locations on Village premises and facilities a sign that contains a statement in substantially the following form:

"Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code and Village ordinance, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person's control, convey, or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordinance onto these premises."

**Section 4.** A valid concealed carry permit or license issued by the state of Ohio or any other jurisdiction does not authorize the concealed carry permit holder or licensee to carry a concealed firearm into any facility of the Village of Rushville unless authorized by the express prior written permission of the Village mayor.

**Section 5.** Ohio law enforcement officers and peace officers may carry a concealed firearm onto Village property, even when not acting within the scope of their duties.

**Section 6.** A violation of Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided by the Ohio Revised Code.

**Section 7.** All previous ordinances inconsistent with the ordinance are hereby repealed.

**Section 8.** This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare in that the Village of Rushville is required to provide a safe and secure forum for the discussion of civic affairs for the administration of its duties in service of the citizenry, to provide for the security of its officials, officers, and employees, and to protect against the increasing proliferation of workplace violence. This ordinance shall be in force and effect at the earliest possible date provided by law.

Attest: Cindy Lewis  
Clerk

Signed: John R. Bump  
Mayor

Date: 9-14-23

Date: 9-14-23

Approved as to form only:  
Village Solicitor

[Signature]