

**AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE POSTING OF SIGNS TO PROHIBIT THE
CARRYING OF CONCEALED HANDGUNS ON CERTAIN COUNTY PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, Chapter 398 of the 1995 Session Laws changes prior law by establishing a system that will allow private citizens to obtain permits to carry concealed handguns; and

WHEREAS, this change in the law will significantly increase the number of individuals who may legally carry concealed handguns; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is concerned about the increase presence of concealed handguns on County property and about the threat that such increased presence will pose to the health, safety, and general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 14-415.23 authorizes Counties to adopt ordinances to permit the posting of a prohibition against carrying a concealed handgun, in accordance with N.C.G.S. 14-415.11(c), on County buildings, their appurtenant premises, and parks; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this ordinance to permit the posting of County property such that the carrying of concealed handguns on the posted premises will constitute a violation of N.C.G.S. Chapter 14, Article 54B;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the McDowell County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. Posting of Signs Required

The County Manager is hereby ordered to post appropriate signage on each park, building or portion of a building now or hereafter owned, leased as lessee, operated, occupied, managed or controlled by McDowell County, as well as the appurtenant premises to such buildings, indicating that concealed handguns are prohibited therein.

Section 2. Location of Signs

Said signs shall be visibly posted on the exterior of each entrance by which the general public can access the building, appurtenant premise, or park. The County Manager shall exercise discretion in determining the necessity and appropriate location for other signs posted on the interior of the building, appurtenant premise, or park.

Section 3. Exemptions

A. This ordinance shall not apply to the following:

1. Officers and enlisted personnel of the armed forces of the United States when in discharge of their official duties as such and acting under orders requiring them to carry arms and weapons;

2. Civil officers of the United States while in the discharge of their official duties;
3. Officers and soldiers of the militia and the national guard when called into actual service;
4. Sworn law enforcement officers.

Section 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall be effective on and after December 1, 1995.

Adopted this 8th day of November, 1995.

s/Terry L. Smith
Chairman of the
Board of Commissioners
McDowell County, NC

s/Carrie Padgett
Clerk to the Board of
Commissioners
McDowell County, NC