Firearm Regulations: Public Hearing on March 27th

The Village Board has recently considered a number of local firearm ordinance proposals. A majority felt the only effective local regulation will be focused on:

- limiting possession of firearms to persons over age 18
- requiring owners to assume responsibility if someone under age 18 gains access to a firearm they own
- requiring the safe transport of firearms.

Some of these ideas (like the 18 year age requirement) are in existing Village ordinances. **The Board will consider specific amendments to clarify Village regulation in light of new state laws at their regular meeting on March 27, 2001**. The meeting begins at 8:00pm in the Board Room of the Village Hall. The public is invited to be heard on these specific amendments.

Section 4. Amendment to Section 17-40.

Section 17-40, entitled Possession of Weapons by Persons Under Eighteen Years of Age, amended to read as follows (stricken text removed, <u>bold</u> and double underlined text added):

It shall be unlawful for any person under eighteen (18) years of age, within village limits, to possess any:

(5) Firearms or ammunition, as defined by 430 ILCS 65/1.1 in Article XXII of this Code, except when such person is engaged in target shooting on an indoor range approved by the Village, and under the direct supervision of an adult who maintains a current certification as a firearms instructor, or the otherwise legal transportation of such device; or

(Note: this just keeps definitions consistent in this Code)

Sec. 17-49.

Firearm storage responsibility - premises under firearm owner's control.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner of a firearm, as defined in Article XXII of this Code to store or leave, within premises under his or her control, a firearm if such owner knows or has reason to believe that any person under the age of eighteen (18) years is likely to gain access to

the firearm without the lawful permission of that person's parent, guardian, or other individual having charge of the person, unless the firearm is:

- (1) secured by a devise or mechanism, other than the firearm manufacturer's factory installed safety device, designed to render a firearm temporarily inoperable; or
- (2) placed in a secure, tamper resistant lock box or container.
- (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply where the person under eighteen (18) years of age:
- (1) gains access to the firearm and uses it in a lawful act of selfdefense or defense of another; or
- (2) gains access to the firearm after that person unlawfully enters the premises at which the firearm is stored.

Sec. 17-50.

Firearm storage responsibility - motor vehicle under firearm owner's control.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner of a firearm, as defined in Article XXII of this Code to store or leave, within any motor vehicle under his or her control, a firearm if such owner knows or has reason to believe that any person is likely to gain access to the firearm, unless the firearm is:

- (1) secured by a devise or mechanism, other than the firearm manufacturer's factory installed safety device, designed to render the firearm temporarily inoperable; or
- (2) placed in a secure, tamper resistant lock box or container.
- (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply where the person:
- (1) gains access to the firearm and uses it in a lawful act of self-defense or defense of another: or
- (2) gains access to the firearm after that person unlawfully enters the vehicle in which the firearm is stored.

The major difference between these provisions and state law is the age is set at 18 rather than 14, the owner's responsibility is greater than provided by state law and the definition of firearms is more specific.

Comments in writing received prior to the meeting will have the same weight as oral testimony.

Comments may be sent to:

Northbrook Village Board 1225 Cedar lane Northbrook, IL 60062,

or

village@northbrook.il.us

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