

MUNICIPALITY OF NORRISTOWN
A HOME RULE MUNICIPALITY
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 16-14 of 2016

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORRISTOWN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING THE GENERAL LAWS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORRISTOWN TO REQUIRE PROMPT NOTIFICATION OF THE NORRISTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT OF LOST OF STOLEN FIREARMS; DEFINING "FIREARMS" FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ORDINANCE; REPEALING INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania has enacted the General Laws of Norristown which contain, *inter alia*, provisions governing the use of firearms and weapons; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council desires to require that persons who have lost a firearm or have had a firearm stolen must report the loss or theft to the Norristown Police Department within 72 hours after the discovery of the loss or theft, in order to allow the Norristown Police Department to initiate a search for the lost or stolen firearm before it is used in a crime, in order to better protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Norristown;

NOW THEREFORE, be it hereby **ORDAINED** by the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Norristown and hereby **ENACTED** as follows:

- I. The General Laws of the Municipality of Norristown are amended to re-insert Chapter 155, Firearms and Weapons, as follows:

ARTICLE I:
FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND INTENT

The Norristown Municipal Council desires to require that persons who have lost a firearm or have had a firearm stolen must report the loss or theft to the Norristown Municipality Police Department within 72 hours after the discovery of the loss or theft, in order to permit the Department to record and maintain such information, and to permit the Department to commence efforts to search for the lost or stolen firearm before it is used in a crime, and to further provide for the preservation of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Municipality of Norristown.

ARTICLE II: REQUIRED CONDUCT

Anyone who is the owner of a firearm that is lost or stolen within the Municipality shall report the loss or theft of the firearm to the Norristown Police Department within 72 hours after discovery of the loss or theft of the firearm. Failure to so report a lost or stolen firearm is a violation subject to the penalties set forth under this chapter.

ARTICLE III: DEFINITIONS OF FIREARM

For purposes of this chapter, the term "firearm" shall mean any pistol or revolver with a barrel length less than 15 inches, any shotgun with a barrel length less than 18 inches or any rifle with a barrel length less than 16 inches, or any pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun with an overall length of less than 26 inches. The barrel length of a firearm shall be determined by measuring from the muzzle of the barrel to the face of the closed action, bolt or cylinder, whichever is applicable. If the definition of the term "firearm" set forth in 18 Pa. C.S.A. §6102 is amended after the effective date of this Ordinance, then this definition shall be automatically amended to reflect the definition of a "firearm" found therein.

ARTICLE IV: MAINTENANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS OF STOLEN FIREARMS

The Police Department shall maintain a record of all reports of firearms reported as stolen in accordance with the terms of this chapter, and shall provide a report of the same to the Municipal Council on not less than an annual basis.

ARTICLE V: PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION

Any who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$600.00 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days.

ARTICLE VI: REPEALER

The terms, conditions and provisions of this Ordinance are intended to supersede, repeal and replace any inconsistent terms, conditions or provisions of the General Laws of the Municipality of Norristown, and any term, condition or provision of the General Law not in conflict with the terms, conditions and provisions of this Ordinance shall survive the enactment of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE VII: SEVERABILITY

The terms, conditions and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and, should any portion, part or provision of this Ordinance be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, Municipal Council hereby declares its intent that the Ordinance shall have been enacted without regard to the invalid, unenforceable, or unconstitutional portion, part or provision of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE VII: SEVERABILITY

The terms, conditions and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and, should any portion, part or provision of this Ordinance be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unenforceable or unconstitutional, Municipal Council hereby declares its intent that the Ordinance shall have been enacted without regard to the invalid, unenforceable, or unconstitutional portion, part or provision of this Ordinance.

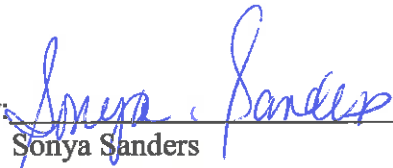
ARTICLE VIII: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect five (5) days following its legal enactment.

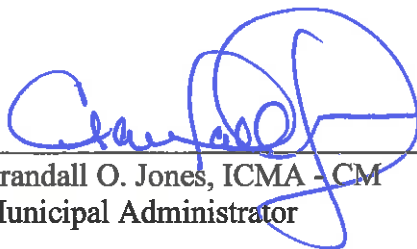
ENACTED and ORDAINED this 4th day of October, 2016.

Seal:

**Municipality of Norristown
Municipal Council**

By: 
Sonya Sanders
Council President

Attest


Crandall O. Jones, ICMA - CM
Municipal Administrator