

ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE**Chapter 71****Firearms Buyback Program****§ 71.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this ordinance is to create a safer community and prevent firearm violence by creating a mechanism by which citizens can surrender unwanted or unneeded firearms.

(Ord. No. 24-03, 3-19-24)

§ 71.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Chief of Police” means the Chief of Police of Arlington County, Virginia, or the designated acting Chief of Police.

“County Manager” means the County Manager of Arlington County, Virginia, or any of his designees. (5-22-76)

“Firearm” means any handgun, shotgun, or rifle that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel single or multiple projectiles by action of an explosion of a combustible material.

“Private Entity” means any person or private group, organization, proprietorship, partnership, trust, cooperative, corporation, or other commercial or nonprofit entity, including an officer, employee, or agent thereof.

(Ord. No. 24-03, 3-19-24)

§ 71.3 Establishment of Program

A. The County Manager is hereby authorized to establish a firearm buyback program, in which firearm surrendered by any resident of Arlington County or the City of Falls Church can be exchanged for cash, gift cards, vouchers, or other thing of value.

B. The County Manager may enter into agreements with private entities to fund or sponsor the firearm buyback program. The County may issue receipts, certificates or vouchers in exchange for surrendered firearms, which may be accepted or exchanged for things of value by any entity wishing to sponsor or otherwise participate in the firearms buyback program.

(Ord. No. 24-03, 3-19-24)

§ 71.4 Disposition of Firearms Acquired Through Program

A. Any firearm received, except a firearm of the type defined in VA. CODE § 18.2-288 or §18.2-299 or a firearm the transfer for which is prohibited by federal law, shall be destroyed at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

B. In the event a person surrendering the firearm requests in writing that the firearm be offered by sale by public auction or sealed bids to a person licensed as a dealer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq., the County may dispose of the firearm in the manner authorized by VA. CODE § 15.2-915.5, or it may refuse to accept the firearm.
(Ord. No. 24-03, 3-19-24)

§ 71.5 Conflicts

Where any part of this Chapter imposes a greater or lesser restriction than other existing provisions of law or ordinance, the provision which are the more restrictive shall control. Should any section or provision of this Chapter be decided by the Courts to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Chapter as a whole, or any part thereof other than the part so held to be invalid.
(Ord. No. 24-03, 3-19-24)