

REFERENDUM ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A REFERENDUM ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, SAME BEING CHAPTER 11 OF THE ACTS OF 1879 AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XI, § 9 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE (HOME RULE AMENDMENT), SO AS TO PROVIDE PROVISIONS FOR THE REGULATION OF DEADLY WEAPONS

WHEREAS, it is deemed advisable and in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Memphis that the City of Memphis Charter be amended by ordinance as provided by Article XI, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee (Home Rule Amendment) for the purpose of regulating deadly weapons in the City of Memphis.

Section 1. Proposed Amendment Authorized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, That pursuant to Article XI, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, as amended, a proposal for amending the Charter of the City, as set forth in this ordinance, shall be published and submitted by the City of Memphis to its qualified voters at the first state general election, which shall be held in the City of Memphis on August 1, 2024, and which shall be held at least sixty (60) days after such publication.

Section 2. Publication of Home Rule Amendment as required by Tennessee Constitution.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the Comptroller is hereby directed to cause this Ordinance, as finally adopted, to be published pursuant to provisions of Article XI, Section 9 of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee immediately after adoption by the City Council.

Section 3. Certification and Delivery to Election Commission.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That upon the adoption of this Ordinance becoming effective as required by law, the Comptroller of the City of Memphis shall immediately certify adoption of this Ordinance and deliver a certified copy thereof to the Shelby County Election Commission in charge of holding the general State election on August 1, 2024, and shall request that the proposed amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the City of Memphis, in the preferred form set forth in this Ordinance, be placed on the ballot.

Section 4. Proposal and preference.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the City Council does hereby adopt the suggested proposal and form of question to be placed on the ballot for a referendum vote on a Home Rule Amendment to the Charter of the City of Memphis in a State General election to be held on the 1st day of August 2024, which question(s) shall read as follows:

QUESTION:

Shall the Charter of the City of Memphis be amended to read:

1. No person shall be allowed to carry a handgun in the City of Memphis without possessing a valid handgun carry permit.
2. No person shall be allowed to carry, store, or travel with a handgun in a vehicle in the City of Memphis without possessing a valid handgun permit.
3. It shall be unlawful for a person to store a firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or firearm ammunition, in a motor vehicle or boat while the person is not in the motor vehicle or boat unless the firearm or firearm ammunition is kept from ordinary observation and locked within the trunk, utility or glove box, or a locked container securely affixed to the motor vehicle or boat.

*I, Shirley Ford, Director of Finance for the City of Memphis do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment shall have no impact on the annual revenues and expenditures of the City.*

FOR THE AMENDMENT	(YES) _____
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	(NO) _____

QUESTION:

Shall the Charter of the City of Memphis be amended to read:

1. The citizens of Memphis hereby find and declare that the proliferation and use of assault weapons pose a threat to the health, safety, and security of all citizens of Memphis.
2. Hereafter, it shall be unlawful and prohibited for a person to possess or carry, openly or concealed, any assault rifles in the City of Memphis. Persons with valid handgun permits are exempt from this restriction when possessing or carrying an assault rifle on their privately owned property or at a shooting range.
3. Hereafter, the commercial sale of assault rifles within the City of Memphis is unlawful and is hereby prohibited.
4. The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to the commercial sale of assault rifles to:
  - 4.1 Any federal, state, local law enforcement agency;
  - 4.2 The United States Armed Forces or department or agency of the United States;
  - 4.3 Tennessee National Guard, or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a state; or
  - 4.4 A Law Enforcement Officer.

5. Pre-existing owners that can demonstrate that the commercial sale of an assault rifle was completed prior to the Effective Date of January 1, 2025, which means that prior to January 1, 2025, the purchaser completed an application, passed a background check, and has a receipt or purchase order for said purchase, without regard to whether the purchaser has actual physical possession of the Assault Rifle, shall be considered a pre-existing purchaser.

*I, Shirley Ford, Director of Finance for the City of Memphis do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment shall have no impact on the annual revenues and expenditures of the City.*

FOR THE AMENDMENT	(YES) _____
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	(NO) _____

QUESTION:

Shall the Charter of the City of Memphis be amended to read:

**Section 1. EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS**

A. Definitions

1. "Petitioner" means:

- (A) A law enforcement officer or agency, including an attorney for the state;
- (B) A member of the family of the respondent, which shall be understood to mean a parent, spouse, child, or sibling of the respondent;
- (C) A member of the household of the respondent;
- (D) A dating or intimate partner of the respondent;
- (E) A health care provider who has provided health services to the respondent;
- (F) An official of a school or school system in which the respondent is enrolled or has been enrolled within the preceding month;

2. "Respondent" means the person against whom an order under Section 2 or 3 has been sought or granted.

B. Types of Orders

1. The petitioner may apply for an emergency ex parte order as provided in Section 2 or an order following a hearing as provided in Section 3.

## **Section 2. EMERGENCY EX PARTE ORDER**

(a) Basis for Order. The court shall issue an emergency ex parte extreme risk protection order upon submission of an application by a petitioner, supported by an affidavit or sworn oral statement of the petitioner or other witness, that provides specific facts establishing probable cause that the respondent's possession or receipt of a firearm will pose a significant danger or extreme risk of personal injury or death to the respondent or another person. The court shall take up and decide such an application on the day it is submitted, or if review and decision of the application on the same day is not feasible, then as quickly as possible but in no case later than forty-eight hours.

(b) Content of Order. An order issued under this section shall,

(1) prohibit the respondent from possessing, using, purchasing, manufacturing, or otherwise receiving a firearm;

(2) order the respondent to provisionally surrender any firearms in his or her possession or control, and any license or permit allowing the respondent to possess or acquire a firearm, to any law enforcement officer presenting the order or to a law enforcement agency as directed by the officer or the order; and

(3) inform the respondent of the time and place of the hearing under Section 3 to determine whether he or she will be subject to a continuing prohibition on possessing and acquiring firearms.

(c) Search and Seizure.

(1) If the application and its supporting affidavit or statement establish probable cause that the respondent has access to a firearm, on his or her person or in an identified place, the court shall concurrently issue a warrant authorizing a law enforcement agency to search the person of the respondent and any such place for firearms and to seize any firearm therein to which the respondent would have access.

(2) The court may subsequently issue additional search warrants of this nature based on probable cause that the respondent has retained, acquired, or gained access to firearm while an order under this section remains in effect.

(3) If the owner of a firearm seized pursuant to this subsection is a person other than the respondent, the owner may secure the return of the firearm as provided in Section 3(c)(3).

(d) Time for Service and Searches. The responsible law enforcement agency shall serve the order on the respondent and carry out any search authorized under subsection (c)(1), promptly following issuance of the order. If a search is authorized under subsection (c)(1), the agency may serve the order on the respondent concurrently with or after the execution of the search.

### **SEC. 3. ORDER AFTER HEARING**

(a) Order After Hearing. Upon application for an extreme risk protection order, supported by an affidavit or sworn oral statement of the petitioner or other witness that provides specific facts giving rise to the concern about the significant danger or extreme risk described in Section 2, the court may issue an order under this section, which shall be effective for a period of one (1) year after a hearing. An order issued under this section shall,

(1) prohibit the respondent from possessing, using, purchasing, or otherwise receiving a firearm; and

(2) order the respondent to surrender any firearm in his or her possession or control, and any license or permit allowing the respondent to possess or acquire a firearm, to any law enforcement officer presenting the order or to a law enforcement agency as directed by the officer or the order.

(b) Basis for order. The court shall issue such an order based on a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent's possession or receipt of a firearm will pose a significant danger or extreme risk of personal injury or death to the respondent or another person. In determining the satisfaction of this requirement, the court shall consider all relevant facts and circumstances after reviewing the petitioner's application and conducting the hearing described in Section 2(d). The court may order a psychological evaluation of the respondent, including voluntary or involuntary commitment of the respondent for purposes of such an evaluation, to the extent authorized by other law.

(c) Search and Seizure.

(1) If the evidence presented at the hearing establishes probable cause that the respondent has access to a firearm, on his or her person or in an identified place, the court shall concurrently issue a warrant authorizing a law enforcement agency to search the person of the respondent and any such place for firearms and to seize any firearm therein to which the respondent would have access.

(2) The court may subsequently issue additional search warrants of this nature based on probable cause that the respondent has retained, acquired, or gained access to a firearm while an order under this section remains in effect.

(3) If the owner of a firearm seized pursuant to this subsection is a person other than the respondent, the owner may secure the prompt return of the firearm by providing an affidavit to the law enforcement agency affirming his or her ownership of the firearm and providing assurance that he or she will safeguard the firearm against access by the respondent. The law enforcement agency shall return the firearm to the owner upon its confirmation, including by a check of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and the applicable state firearm background check system, that the owner is not legally disqualified from possessing or receiving the firearm.

(d) Time for Hearings and Service.

(1) A hearing under this section shall be held within three (3) days of the filing of the application, or within one (1) day of the issuance of an emergency ex parte order under Section 2, if such an order is issued. The responsible law enforcement agency shall serve notice of the hearing on the respondent promptly after the filing of the application or issuance of an emergency ex parte order, but notice may be provided by publication or mailing if the respondent cannot be personally served within the specified period. The respondent shall be entitled to one continuance of up to two (2) days on request, and the court may thereafter grant an additional continuance or continuances for good cause. Any emergency ex parte order under Section 2 shall remain in effect until the hearing is held. The court may temporarily extend the emergency order at the hearing, pending a decision on a final order.

(2) The responsible law enforcement agency shall serve an order issued under this section on the respondent and carry out any search authorized under subsection (c)(1), promptly following issuance of the order. If a search is authorized under subsection (c)(1), the agency may serve the order on the respondent concurrently with or after the execution of the search.

(e) Termination and Renewal of Orders.

(1) A respondent may file a motion to terminate an order under Section 3 one time during the effective period of that order. The respondent shall have the burden of proving, by the same standard of proof required for issuance of such an order, that he or she does not pose a significant danger or extreme risk of personal injury or death to himself or herself or another.

(2) The petitioner may seek renewals of an order under this section for an additional six (6) months at any time preceding its expiration. Renewals after the initial order shall be granted subject to the same standards and requirements as an initial order. The preceding order shall remain in effect until the renewal hearing is held and the court grants or denies a renewed order.

(3) If the respondent fails to appear at, or cannot be personally served in relation to, any hearing or renewal hearing under this section, the default does not affect the court's authority to issue an order or entitle the respondent to challenge the order prior to its expiration. The order will lapse after one (1) year if no eligible petitioner seeks its renewal.

#### **SEC. 4. ENTRY INTO BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEMS**

The court shall forward any order issued under Section 2 or 3 to an appropriate law enforcement agency on the day it is issued. Upon receipt of an order under Section 3, the law enforcement agency shall make the order available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and any state system used to identify persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms.

**SEC. 5. VIOLATIONS**

The following persons shall be in violation of the City Code of Ordinances:

(1) **FILER OF FALSE OR HARASSING APPLICATION.** – Any person filing an application under Section 2 or 3 containing information that he or she knows to be materially false, or for the purpose of harassing the respondent.

(2) **RESPONDENT NOT COMPLYING WITH ORDER.** – Any person who knowingly violates an order under Section 2 or 3, including by possessing or acquiring a firearm in violation of the order or failing to surrender a firearm as required by the order.

(3) **PROVIDER OF PROHIBITED ACCESS TO RESPONDENT.** – Any person who knowingly provides the subject of an order under Section 2 or 3 access to a firearm, in violation of an assurance the person has provided in an affidavit under Section 2(c)(3) or 3(c)(3) that he or she will safeguard the firearm against access by the respondent.

*I, Shirley Ford, Director of Finance for the City of Memphis do hereby certify that the foregoing amendment shall have no impact on the annual revenues and expenditures of the City.*

FOR THE AMENDMENT	(YES) _____
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT	(NO) _____

Section 5. Effective Date of Charter Amendment.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect for the purposes set forth herein on January 1, 2025, after approval by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon in an election to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August 2024, the public welfare, requiring it.

Section 6. Certification of Results.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That the Shelby County Election Commission certify the result of said election on the referendum question to the Comptroller of the City of Memphis, who shall see that said result is made a part of the Minutes of the Council of the City of Memphis.

Section 7. Nonconflicting – Conflicting Laws.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That from and after the effective date of this Home Rule Amendment, all laws constituting the present Charter of the City of Memphis in conflict with the subject matter of this amendatory Home Rule Ordinance shall be immediately annulled, vacated, and repealed and all laws constituting the present Charter of the City of Memphis not in conflict

with this amendatory Home Rule Ordinance, be and the same are here continued in full force and effect.

Section 8. Severability.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any clause, section, paragraph, sentence or part of this Ordinance shall be held or declared to be unconstitutional and void, it shall not affect the remaining parts of this Ordinance, it being hereby declared to be the legislative intent to have passed the remainder of this Ordinance notwithstanding the parts so held to be invalid, if any.

Section 9. Publication as Required by the City Charter.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall also be published by the Comptroller at the same time and manner as required by the City's Charter for all ordinances adopted by the City Council.

Section 10. Enactment of Referendum Ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the adoption of this Referendum Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date it shall have passed by the Council, signed by the Chairman of the Council, certified and delivered to the Office of the Mayor in writing by the Comptroller, and become effective as otherwise provided by law.

SPONSORS

JB Smiley, Jr.  
Jeff Warren

CHAIRMAN

Martavius Jones