
 City of Rockwall	City Policies & Administrative Directives		
	Policy Number 214	Page Number 1 of 2	Origination Date: 01-01-2016
	Subject: Open Carry & Concealed Handguns		 City Manager Signature

POLICY

It is the intent of the City of Rockwall to comply with current state regulations (HB910 and SB273) relating to **open carry** and **concealed handguns**. Effective, January 2016, a person with a valid license to carry a handgun issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety may **conceal** or **openly carry** a handgun in a belt or shoulder holster in public including the premises of any governmental property, with limited exceptions as set forth herein.

EMPLOYEES:


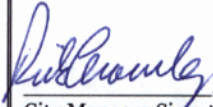
Regardless of the legislation discussed above, the CITY OF ROCKWALL STRICTLY PROHIBITS THE POSSESSION OF ANY WEAPONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO HANDGUNS, BY ANY EMPLOYEE, EXCEPT BY A LICENSED PEACE OFFICER, WHILE IN CITY BUILDINGS OR ON ANY CITY-OWNED OR CONTROLLED PREMISES. Possession of a concealed or an openly carried handgun inside designated City-owned or controlled premises, by any employee other than licensed Peace Officers, are forbidden and the City will take reasonable and necessary steps with regard to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Employees who are licensed to carry and lawfully possess a firearm and/or ammunition in accordance with Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code, may leave such firearm/ammunition in his/her locked, privately owned vehicle in the parking lot the City provides for employees. Additionally, if an employee chooses to store a firearm or ammunition that is legal to carry without a permit (i.e. hunting rifle) in his/her personal vehicle, it must be stored out of sight and the vehicle must be locked. This does not extend to City owned or leased vehicles provided to employees for City-related business. Other than a licensed Peace Officer, employees are prohibited from carrying a weapon while performing City-related business off the City's premises.

Only a licensed Peace Officer may question a person who is openly carrying as to whether they hold the proper license. If an employee observes a person openly carrying a handgun and that person is causing a disturbance or behavior that raises concern for safety:

1. Move to a safe location;
2. Dial 911 to alert police so they may dispatch assistance to your location; and
3. Notify a supervisor immediately.

Department Directors, or designee, are responsible for ensuring that employees comply with provisions of this policy and to manage issues that arise relating to **open carry** and **concealed handguns**. Appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination, will be taken against an employee who violates this policy.

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WEAPONS:

According to the Texas Penal Code, are considered firearms, knives, explosives, clubs or any other item that is specifically designated, made or adopted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death. Employees who are required to use a knife as a tool in the scope of employment may carry a work knife.

EXCEPTIONS:

A licensed Peace Officer is exempt from this policy.

Judges appointed to the City of Rockwall Municipal Court and employed or contracted City attorneys who are licensed to carry a handgun under Chapter 411 of the Texas Government Code are permitted to carry firearms in the courtroom and other City facilities.

PUBLIC:

The City will post the appropriate signage and will provide other such notices in accordance with Section 30.06 and 30.07 of the Texas Penal Code (the Criminal Trespass Law). However, no signs can be posted in or on City property to prohibit concealed and/or open carry without the authorization and specific direction of the City Manager.

A person, except a licensed Peace Officer, is restricted from carrying a firearm in the following City facilities, not including a public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage, or other parking area surrounding or related to:

1. the Municipal Court Building or any area/office utilized by the court;
2. room or rooms where the City is holding a meeting that is subject to the Open Meetings Act *if City Council has voted to prohibit handguns during the meetings and proper notice is made in accordance with the law;*
3. secured area of the City Police Department and Fire Department buildings;
4. City water/wastewater intake structure, treatment facility or pump station;