

**CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-06-13-R**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS AUTHORIZING THE POSTING OF SIGNS RELATING TO THE CARRYING OF WEAPONS IN CITY BUILDINGS HOUSING THE OFFICES OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Penal Code § 46.03(a)(3) presently declares that it is a third degree felony criminal offense for a person to intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carry weapons on the premises of any government court or offices utilized by the court, unless pursuant to written regulations or written authorization of the court;

**WHEREAS**, this criminal offense defined by state law applies to firearms and illegal knives, clubs, and other prohibited weapons, and is not limited to handguns;

**WHEREAS**, the building known as Princeton City Hall also houses the Princeton Municipal Court and its associated offices, which include the public entrance areas immediately within the main entry doors, and the Princeton Municipal Court has no written regulations permitting the general public to carry weapons in its offices or courtroom;

**WHEREAS**, the courtroom is also the place where City Council meetings are presently held, and the entry hallways accessible to the public during regular business hours are essential to the operation of the Princeton Municipal Court as Municipal Court transactions are conducted in said areas including without limitation said hallways;

**WHEREAS**, changes to Texas firearms carrying law predating this resolution have resulted in some confusion among the general public regarding the places and circumstances where weapons can be lawfully carried;

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding said recent changes, Texas law does not provide holders of a license to carry a handgun with any special privilege to carry weapons in the places subject to the prohibitions of Texas Penal Code § 46.03;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has found it is likely to reduce confusion and benefit the public if signs were posted to provide notice of the prohibition against carrying weapons in the publicly accessible areas of Princeton City Hall;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS:**

That the staff of the City of Princeton, Texas is authorized to create and post signs on the entry areas to the publicly accessible portions of Princeton City Hall to notify the public that carrying of firearms and other unlawful weapons is prohibited within those areas; and said signs shall read

“The publicly accessible areas of this building house the municipal court and its offices. All firearms and other weapons listed under Texas Penal Code § 46.03(a) and/or Texas Penal Code § 46.05(a) are prohibited under Texas Penal Code Sec. 46.03(a)(3).”; and to amend, move, modify, and maintain such signs as may be required by any subsequent change to the present application of state law or change to the scope of facilities used by the court; and for purposes of this sign the “publicly accessible areas” of Princeton City Hall is defined to include its Municipal Court and the entirety of the entry hall(s) outside the room in which the Municipal Court is held.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a majority of the full membership of the City Council of the City of Princeton, Texas this the 14 day of June, 2016.

  
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John-Mark Caldwell, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Lesia Thornhill, City Secretary

