



HANDGUNS AT CITY MEETINGS

RS-21-032

March 2, 2021

Texas Law

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- Texas law generally allows a license holder to carry a concealed handgun or openly carry a handgun in a shoulder or belt holster.
- Penal Code 46.035(c) prohibits the concealed or open carrying of a handgun in the room(s) where a governmental entity meets if it is an open meeting subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act and the entity provides notice that handguns are prohibited.

Background

- After state legislation changed regarding handguns, the City Council in 2016 passed two resolutions regarding handguns at city meetings:
 - ▣ 16-075 allowed the carrying of concealed handguns
 - ▣ 16-076 allowed the open carrying of handguns
- At its February 22, 2021 workshop, the City Council directed staff to present a resolution to repeal resolutions 16-075 and 16-076.

Repeal

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- If approved, beginning with the next workshop, staff will place signs with the required verbiage near the entrances to Council Chambers and other meeting locations.
 - ▣ Open or concealed carrying of handguns at meetings will no longer be allowed.
- Signs will also be posted for other city meetings where posting is required by the Texas Open Meetings Act. (Civil Service, Planning and Zoning)

Recommendation

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- Based on its motion of direction, it is recommended that the City Council repeal resolutions 16-075 and 16-076 and direct staff to post notice prohibiting handguns at city meetings.