

**ORDINANCE CREATING A REFUNDING MECHANISM FOR CERTAIN APPLICATION
FEES RELATED TO THE ISSUANCE OF CONCEALED CARRY PERMITS IN THE
TOWNSHIP OF READINGTON**

Ordinance# 21-2025

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4, applicants for permits to carry a handgun are required to pay an application fee in the amount of \$200, of which \$150 is paid to the municipality and \$50 is paid directly to the Superintendent of the State Police; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington recognizes that the statutory fee structure imposes financial burdens on applicants and wishes to ease that burden for residents by offering refunds of the Township of Readington's portion of the application fee; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington recognizes that the United States Supreme Court has long held that taxes on fundamental rights are unconstitutional and that the statutory fee prescribed by N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4 is in excess of a mere processing fee and is therefore a tax on a core constitutional right; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Readington has determined that it is in the public interest to establish an administrative process for refunding the \$150 municipal portion of the application fee upon appropriate documentation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Committee of Readington Township as follows:

Section I

There is hereby established an Article VI of Chapter 119 entitled "Firearm Fees."

Section II

Section 119-21 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

Section 119-21 Establishment and Purpose

The Township of Readington has determined that it is in the public interest to establish a refunding mechanism for the municipal portion of the handgun licensing fee established by the State of New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4.

Section III

Section 119-22 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

Section 119-22 Refund Authorization

Any applicant who has paid the \$150 municipal application fee for a handgun carry permit on or after October 20, 2025, and who submits a valid receipt showing payment, may apply to the Township of Readington's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for a refund of \$150, representing the portion of the statutory fee paid to Township of Readington under N.J.S.A 2C:58-4.

Section IV

Section 119-23 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

Section 119-23 Procedure for Refund

Refunds shall be issued upon applicant's submission to the CFO of (a) proof of payment, and (b) confirmation that the application was processed through the Township of Readington.

The Township of Readington CFO is hereby authorized to administer this refund program and to require any reasonable documentation necessary to confirm eligibility.

Section V

Section 119-24 is hereby created in Chapter 119 of the municipal code of the Township of Readington and shall be inserted in the aforementioned Article VI thereof and shall appear as follows (all text novel):

Section 119-24 Limitation on Refund

This refund policy applies only to the municipal portion of the fee and does not apply to any amounts remitted by the applicant directly to the State of New Jersey or other agencies. Refunds shall be available only for payments made on or after October 20, 2025.

Section VI

All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section VII

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to this section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section VII

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law.