

## *What are the Goals of the Ordinance?*

The Beaverton Police Department, in partnership with the community, seeks to avoid tragedies such as these that have occurred around the United States:

- **“Deputy Shoots Teen Wielding Pellet Gun”**
- **“Florida 8th Grader Wielding Pellet Gun Shot Down”**
- **“Man With Fake Gun Killed by Police”**

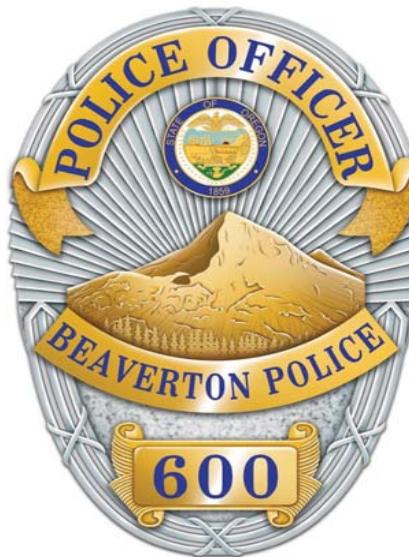


## *Why is there a Replica Firearm Ordinance?*

There have been many incidents where the display of a replica firearm has caused public alarm, including school lock downs. With the increase in popularity of replica firearms, there is a need to ensure the safety of the community, including the safety of citizens who enjoy using replica firearms. These firearms look very much like actual firearms, and by removing their orange tips can look even more realistic. The ordinance assures that users of replica firearm may continue to do so safely and without causing public alarm.

## *What are the Penalties for Violating the Ordinance?*

OFFENSE	PENALTY
Display in a public place	Not less than \$250
Altered replica in public place	Not less than \$500
Second offense within 5 years	Class A misdemeanor
Possession on or within 1,000' of school property	Class C misdemeanor



For additional information, please contact the Beaverton Police Department at 503-526-2260 or visit us at the Beaverton Police Department's website at: [www.beavertonpolice.org](http://www.beavertonpolice.org)

# **Unlawful Use of a Replica Firearm**



## *A Guide to Safe Airsoft Use in Beaverton, Oregon*



Chief David G. Bishop

## **What is a “Replica Firearm”?**

A replica firearm is “any device that substantially resembles a firearm or can reasonably be perceived to be an actual firearm.” This applies to Airsoft guns and other replica firearms that copy or look very similar to a real gun. A replica firearm does not include a clear plastic or brightly colored imitation gun. These obvious toy guns, can also include an Airsoft gun if it is made of clear plastic or is brightly colored.



## **How are Replica Firearms used?**

Replica firearms are used for entertainment by people of all ages. Professionally, some police agencies use replica firearms for training because of their close resemblance to real firearms. Airsoft guns are the most common replica firearm, and may expel a small plastic pellet at a low velocity. More information on Airsoft guns can be found at [http://en.wikipedia.org/Wiki/Airsoft\\_guns](http://en.wikipedia.org/Wiki/Airsoft_guns).

## **Where can Replica Firearms be used?**

Generally, the use or display of a replica firearm on private property is lawful. Beaverton’s Replica Firearm Ordinance forbids the display of a replica firearm in a public place and the pointing or discharging of a replica firearm at another person if the other person is in a public place. A first offense is punishable as a civil violation. Repeat offenses, and any offense involving a replica firearm committed on or within 1,000 feet of school premises, are punishable as misdemeanors.



## **How Does one Safely Transport a Replica Firearm?**

Replica firearms may be transported in opaque containers, so that the replica firearm is not visible. For vehicles, the trunk of a car is a safe place to transport a replica firearm. Within the passenger compartment, a replica firearm may be transported inside a case kept away from the driver and any passenger. If the



opaque container.

replica firearm is being transported by foot, it may be concealed from view in a sack, briefcase, backpack or other

## **What are the Dangers of Modifying a Replica Firearm?**

Commercially sold replica firearms come with a blaze orange tip mandated by the Federal Government. This marking helps to identify a real firearm from a replica firearm. Removing the orange tip or modifying a replica firearm to make it appear more realistic is dangerous.

The absence of an orange tip increases the risk that a replica firearm will be mistaken for a real firearm.



## **What Changes with this Ordinance?**

The ordinance prohibits a person from displaying a replica firearm in a public place, as well as from discharging a replica firearm from private property to a public place. Possession of a replica firearm on or near school property is also prohibited, and there are enhanced penalties for modifying a replica firearm to more closely resemble an actual firearm.