

## ORDINANCE 2026-24

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 14-1006, "DISCHARGING FIREARMS," TO EXPAND PROHIBITED CONDUCT, INCREASE PENALTIES, PROVIDE FOR ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDE WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Baker finds that the protection of public peace, safety, order, and welfare is a core municipal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, disorderly, violent, intimidating, and disruptive conduct in public places undermines the safety of residents, visitors, businesses, and lawful assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that the existing ordinance should be strengthened to provide clearer standards, more effective enforcement, and greater deterrence against repeat or aggravated violations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council for the City of Baker, State of Louisiana, that:

#### SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.

Section 14-1006 of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

#### Sec. 14-1006. Discharging Firearms

- (a) *Firearm defined.* For purposes of this section, the term "firearm" is defined as an instrument used in the propulsion of the shot, shell or bullets by the action of gunpowder within it or by the action of compressed air, CO2 or a metal spring.
- (b) *Prohibitions; exceptions.*
- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person, other than members of the federal, state or municipal government, duly authorized and empowered to carry firearms, and when acting within the scope of their legal authority, participants in a city-sanctioned shoot or shooters' education program, and persons acting pursuant to the general provisions contained in R.S. 14:18—14:22, inclusive, to discharge, fire or cause to be discharged or fired any firearm within the city limits.
  - (2) The use of spring-loaded BB guns shall be allowed under this section provided property or persons are not endangered.
  - (3) There is specially excepted from the provisions of this section the discharge, firing or the causing to be discharged or fired of any firearm within the confines of a regularly and properly licensed and supervised shooting or firing range located and situated within the city.
- (c) *Penalties.*
- (1) Any person convicted of violating this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both.
  - (2) When a violation of this article results in damage to the real or movable property of another, the offense shall be subject to enhanced penalties. In addition to any restitution ordered under subsection (c), the court may impose a fine of not less than twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2500.00) and imprisonment in the parish jail for a term not to exceed six months, or both such fine and imprisonment.
  - (3) In any case in which a violation of this article results in damage to the real or movable property of another, the court shall, as a condition of sentence or probation to the fullest extent permitted by law, order the offender to make restitution to the victim for the reasonable cost of repairing or replacing the damaged property. Restitution ordered under this subsection shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any fine or term of imprisonment authorized in this section, and shall be enforced in the manner provided by applicable law.

(4) Prosecution and punishment under this article shall not preclude prosecution under any applicable provision of state law, including but not limited to La. R.S. 14:94 (illegal use of weapons or dangerous instrumentalities) and La. R.S. 14:55 and 14:56 (aggravated and simple criminal damage to property), where the facts so warrant.

**(d) Separate offenses.**

Each separate act, occurrence, or continuing course of conduct in violation of this section may constitute a separate offense, as determined by the enforcing authority and court.

**(e) Authority to disperse and prevent escalation.**

A law enforcement officer may order any person engaging in conduct prohibited by this section to cease such conduct and may order persons to disperse when necessary to preserve public safety, restore order, or prevent further disturbance. Failure to obey such lawful order shall constitute a violation of this section.

**(f) Construction.**

This section shall be liberally construed to protect the public peace, safety, order, and welfare of the municipality and to provide for the most effective lawful enforcement permitted by applicable law.

**SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

**SECTION 3. REPEALER.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication as required by law.

This ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Collins, Dunn, Murphy, Vincent, Young  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

And the Ordinance was presented June 10, 2026, at the regular meeting of the Baker City Council held at the City Hall Building in Baker, Louisiana.

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2026 at the regular meeting of the Baker City Council held at the Baker City Hall Building in Baker, Louisiana.

ATTEST:

/s/Angela Canady Wall, LCMC, Clerk of Council

/s/Darnell Waites, Mayor