

RESOLUTION NO. 24-

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF MESA, STATE OF COLORADO

**RESOLUTION REGARDING DISPLAY OF FIREARMS IN COUNTY
FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. §§ 30-11-103 and 30-11-107(1)(a), (c), and (e), the Board of County Commissioners of Mesa County, Colorado (“Board” or “County”), has the legislative authority to manage the business and concerns of the County to ensure the welfare and interests of the County and its inhabitants, including the authority to make such orders pertaining to property belonging to and in the care of the County; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Board’s ability to care for and manage County property, C.R.S. § 18-9-117(1) permits the imposition of orders, rules, or regulations reasonably necessary for the administration, protection, and maintenance of public buildings and property; and

WHEREAS, Mesa County has not previously passed local regulations relating to where a citizen may open or concealed carry firearms because Mesa County did not wish to curtail the constitutional rights of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Mesa County Justice Center, the Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department facilities, the Mesa County Sheriff’s Office, and the Mesa County Detention Facility are secured facilities that prohibit both the open and concealed carrying of firearms pursuant to C.R.S. § 18-12-214, except those authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has passed SB24-131, entitled “Concerning Prohibiting Carrying a Firearm in Sensitive Spaces Recognized by the United States Supreme Court as Places at Which Longstanding Laws Prohibited Carrying Firearms” (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, the Governor signed SB24-131 on May 31, 2024 effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Act prohibits persons from knowingly carrying a firearm, both open or concealed, to any building or adjacent parking structure in which the chambers or galleries of a local government’s governing body is located, a meeting of the local government’s governing body is being conducted, or the official office of any elected member of a local government’s governing body or of the chief executive officer of a local government is located; and

WHEREAS, the Act permits the Board to enact a resolution that permits a person to carry a firearm at places described above; and

WHEREAS, the Act is unclear as to whether the legislature intended to include County facilities housing non-Board elected officials, including the County Assessor, County Clerk and Recorder, County Coroner, County Sheriff, County Surveyor, County Treasurer & Public Trustee, and/or the Twenty First Judicial District Attorney; and

WHEREAS, historically citizens have been allowed to open carry in all Mesa County facilities unless otherwise restricted pursuant to, C.R.S. § 18-12-214 such as the Mesa County Justice Center, the Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department facilities, the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, and the Mesa County Detention Facility; and

WHEREAS, likewise citizens with a valid concealed carry permit have been allowed to concealed carry in all Mesa County facilities unless otherwise restricted pursuant to, C.R.S. § 18-12-214 such as the Mesa County Justice Center, the Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department facilities, the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, and the Mesa County Detention Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Board does not wish to limit the rights of its citizens beyond restrictions in place at current or future secured facilities operated by the Sheriff or the Mesa County Justice Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners declares it to be in the best interest of the citizens' health, safety and welfare to continue to prohibit firearms in secured areas including the Mesa County Justice Center, the Mesa County Criminal Justice Services Department facilities, the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, and the Mesa County Detention Facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board, pursuant to C.R.S. § 18-12-105.3(4)(b), does hereby expressly authorize individuals to open carry in existing and future Mesa County Facilities, with the exception of any facilities controlled by the Mesa County Sheriff's Office and the Mesa County Justice Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board, pursuant to C.R.S. § 18-12-105.3(4)(b), does hereby expressly authorize valid concealed carry permit holders to continue to concealed carry in existing and future Mesa County Facilities, with the exception of any facilities controlled by the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, Mesa County Criminal Justice Services, and the Mesa County Justice Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair, duly elected and qualified member of the Board of County Commissioners, be and is hereby appointed and authorized to execute any necessary documents on behalf of the Board in order to complete implementation of the policy described herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take immediate effect if and when Colorado SB 24-131 is signed into law and subsequently carries the full force and effect of Colorado law.

DONE THIS ____ day of _____, 2024, at Grand Junction, Colorado.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MESA COUNTY, COLORADO

By: _____
Bobbie Gross
Mesa County Clerk and Recorder

By: _____
Bobbie Daniel, Chair